Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

SCOPING OPINION:

Proposed H2 East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire

Case Reference: EN0610001

Adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) pursuant to Regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

13 April 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.0.1 On 03 March 2026, the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) received an application for a Scoping Opinion from Cadent Gas Limited (the applicant) under regulation 10 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) for the proposed H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the proposed development). The applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under regulation 8(1)(b) of those regulations that they propose to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the proposed development and by virtue of regulation 6(2)(a), the proposed development is 'EIA development'.

1.0.2 The applicant provided the necessary information to inform a request under EIA regulation 10(3) in the form of a Scoping Report, available from:

https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0610001/documents

1.0.3 This document is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) adopted by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS. This Opinion is made on the basis of the information provided in the Scoping Report, reflecting the proposed development as currently described by the applicant. This Opinion should be read in conjunction with the applicant's Scoping Report.

1.0.4 The Inspectorate has set out in the following sections of this Opinion where it has / has not agreed to scope out certain aspects / matters on the basis of the information provided as part of the Scoping Report. The Inspectorate is content that the receipt of this Scoping Opinion should not prevent the applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultation bodies to scope such aspects / matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the aspects / matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.

1.0.5 Before adopting this Opinion, the Inspectorate has consulted the 'consultation bodies' listed in appendix 1 in accordance with EIA regulation 10(6). A list of those consultation bodies who replied within the statutory timeframe (along with copies of their comments) is provided in appendix 2. These comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion.

1.0.6 The Inspectorate has published a series of advice pages, including 'Advice Note 7: *Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping* (AN7)'. AN7 and its annexes provide guidance on EIA processes during the pre-application stages and advice to support applicants in the preparation of their ES.

1.0.7 Applicants should have particular regard to the standing advice in AN7, alongside other advice notes on the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process, available from:

'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice pages'

1.0.8 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the Inspectorate agrees with the information or comments provided by the applicant in their request for an opinion from the Inspectorate. In particular, comments from the Inspectorate in this Opinion are without prejudice to any later decisions taken (e.g. on formal submission of the application) that any development identified by the applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) or associated development or development that does not require development consent.

2. OVERARCHING COMMENTS

2.0 Description of the Proposed Development

(Scoping Report Chapter 2)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.0.1	Paragraphs 2.2.20 and 2.6.20	Hydrogen above ground installations (HAGI's) and Block valves installations (BVI's)	The Scoping Report states that search areas for HAGIs have been identified within the preferred route corridor, these are illustrated in figure 2.14. Precise locations are not known at this stage, although it is noted that these will avoid key environmental and planning designations where possible. The Scoping Report explains that as the requirement for BVIs are subject to further design and risk assessment, therefore no search areas are identified at this stage. The ES should confirm the maximum number, final parameters and locations for both HAGIs and BVIs and assess any likely significant effect (LSE) resulting from their construction, operation/ maintenance and decommissioning.
2.0.2	Paragraphs 2.5.1 to 2.5.8	Flexibility – design envelope approach	The Inspectorate notes the applicant's intention to incorporate flexibility into their draft Development Consent Order (DCO) and its intention to apply a 'Rochdale Envelope' approach for this purpose. Where the details of the proposed development cannot be defined precisely; the applicant will apply a worst-case scenario. The applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the proposed development have yet to be finalised and provide sufficient reasoning for this. The description of the proposed development in the ES must not be so wide that it is insufficiently certain to comply with the requirements of Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations. If the proposed development materially changes prior to submission of the DCO application, the applicant may wish to consider requesting a new Scoping Opinion.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.0.3	Paragraph 2.7.30	Trenching	The Scoping report details that the pipeline depth and width will vary depending on the pipeline diameter and location but will be no shallower than 0.9 m over the top of the pipeline. The ES should describe the range of depths that have been considered as part of the assessment and the degree of confidence in those parameters. Parameters should be established based on a worst-case scenario to determine likely significant effects.
2.0.4	Paragraphs 2.7.55 and 2.7.56	Temporary construction compounds (TCC)	The Scoping Report details that TCCs will be required along the preferred route during the construction phase. It is noted that the location and area required for TCC's will be subject to further design and route refinement. Key locations are likely to include the HAGI construction sites. The ES should identify the number, location and size and dimensions of the construction compounds which will be required for the proposed development. The impact on all relevant aspects such as landscape and biodiversity should be assessed where significant effects may occur. The locations of all construction compounds should be identified on supporting plans.

2.1 EIA Methodology and Scope of Assessment

(Scoping Report Chapters 3 and 4)

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
2.1.1	Paragraph 4.4.15	Significance of effect	The Scoping Report outlines the approach to assigning significance, detailing that only effects that are major are considered significant but moderate effects are considered potentially significant, depending on specific scenarios and professional judgement. Typically, moderate and major effects are deemed to be significant in EIA terms. The ES should provide evidence to support conclusions and clearly identify where professional judgement has been relied upon to determine the level of significance of effects. Any use of professional judgement to assess significance should be fully justified within the ES.
2.1.2	N/A	Mitigation and monitoring	The ES should clearly describe the details of any necessary avoidance and mitigation measures to be implemented, along with monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management procedures. These should be agreed, if possible, with relevant stakeholders and the ES should explain how they would be secured.
2.1.3	N/A	Thermal effects	The Scoping Report does not discuss the temperature of the pipeline during operation, and it is unknown whether there would be potential for thermal effects to surrounding soils. The ES should determine whether there would be potential impact pathway for thermal or cooling effects to the soils surrounding the proposed development infrastructure. Where a pathway exists, the ES should include an assessment of LSEs.
2.1.4	Paragraph 4.7.2	Transboundary effects	The Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS has considered the proposed development and concludes that the proposed development is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			in a European Economic Area State. In reaching this conclusion the Inspectorate has identified and considered the proposed development's likely impacts including consideration of potential pathways and the extent, magnitude, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impacts. The Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the proposed development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening. However, this position will remain under review and will have regard to any new or materially different information coming to light which may alter that decision. The SoS' duty under regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process. The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the annex to its Advice Page 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process,' links for which can be found in paragraph 1.0.7 above.
2.1.5	N/A	Operational Environmental Management Plan	The Scoping Report does not reference an Operational Environmental Management Plan and therefore it is unclear what measures would be secured and implemented during operation of the proposed development. The ES should describe any avoidance and mitigation measures required for the operational period of the proposed development and explain how these measures are to be implemented and secured.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT COMMENTS

3.1 Biodiversity

(Scoping Report Chapter 5)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.1	Table 5.18	Shading of vegetation causing changes in species composition	The applicant proposes to scope out LSE from shading on the basis that above ground infrastructure is very low in height. As a result, no vegetation is expected to be shaded at a level that would alter habitat value or function. On the basis of the information provided, the Inspectorate considers that potential effects from shading of vegetation can be scoped out from reporting in the ES.
3.1.2	Table 5.18	Impact pathways to designated sites, ancient woodland, Annex 1 habitats and priority habitats	The applicant proposes to scope out LSE where no impact pathway exists. Those outside the zone potentially affected by noise, vibration, light and dust from construction and which are not hydrologically or ecologically connected to the construction corridor and do not have mobile species as qualifying/special interest. The Inspectorate agrees to this approach; on the basis that clear justification and appropriate evidence is provided within the ES to confirm that no impact pathways exist.
3.1.3	Table 5.18	Habitat loss and damage from pipeline marker posts.	This matter is proposed to be scoped out because pipeline marker posts require only a very small above-ground footprint during operation. Occasional vegetation management may be required which would be confined to a localised area. Paragraph 2.6.24 states that marker posts will typically be at selected road or footpath crossings and do not require any other above ground infrastructure and will be approximately one metre in height. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that LSE relating to habitat loss and damage from pipeline marker posts are unlikely and this matter can be scoped out from reporting in the ES.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.4	Table 5.18	Habitat or species isolation - decommissioning	The Scoping Report identifies a potential impact of reducing connections between areas of habitat and species populations, impeding animal movement, during the decommissioning phase. The rationale for scoping out this potential impact, is that the buried pipeline will be left in situ at decommissioning and that only above ground infrastructure will be removed. Loss of habitat connectivity or species isolation is also stated as unlikely, with above ground infrastructure located within large arable fields. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment. This is on the basis that the ES confirms and secures that the pipelines would be left in situ at decommissioning. If there is potential for pipeline to be removed, potential LSE on habitat and species should be assessed in the ES.
3.1.5	Table 5.17	Lighting effects during the operational phase	Table 5.17 appears to identify that operational phase lighting impacts can be scoped out of the ES. This is on the basis that HAGIs and BVIs would be unlit except during maintenance or potential breakdown/emergency requirements, when temporary directional task lighting would be used. However, the same commitment (BIO-16) states that it is possible that operational lighting could result in habitat degradation and changes in food availability. As there is some uncertainty on LSE from operational lighting, and what would constitute 'generally unlit', the Inspectorate considers that assessment on the potential effects on biodiversity from operational phase lighting should be assessed within the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.6	Tables 5.1 and 5.11	European eel protection in construction and operation phases	Table 5.1 list the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, which sets out the legal provisions to avoid actions that impede or obstruct eel migration or passage. The European Eel is identified as a protected species that may be affected by the proposed development. No further specific reference is made to eels within the Scoping Report. Table 5.17 (BIO-08) acknowledges that modification of watercourses and sedimentation

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			can change river and stream hydromorphology with effects on aquatic biodiversity. The Inspectorate considers that construction work associated with watercourse crossings, has the potential to impact on eel populations. The ES should therefore include an assessment of the potential effects on eels during the construction phase or provide a clear and robust justification as to why LSE would not arise. Any proposed mitigation measures should be described clearly and appropriately secured. The applicant's attention is directed to comments from the Environment Agency regarding the potential impact on eel populations from artificial lighting and pump use within watercourses.
3.1.7	Tables 5.14 and 5.17	Light pollution from construction or security lighting on bats	The Scoping Report acknowledges that light pollution from construction or security lighting from the proposed development may have an adverse impact on nocturnal species, such as bats. Proposed bat surveying is detailed in table 5.14, which focuses on tree surveying and the use of static bat detectors, to assess bat activity and the potential for roosts. It is proposed that detectors are left in situ for five consecutive nights per season. The Inspectorate considers that further rationale on the frequency of survey's should be provided. The location for static bat detectors would include hedgerows, diches and other suitable habitat with no specific mention of woodlands or proposal for surveying of activity along major watercourses, which would include the River Trent. The Inspectorate considers that bat surveying should include locations along watercourses, especially where there is any potential for any artificial lighting to be introduced. The applicant's attention is directed to the comments from Newark and Sherwood District Council which recommend consideration of nocturnal bat walkover surveys to provide contextual information to support and interpret the findings of the static detector surveys.
3.1.8	Table 5.16	Humber Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of	As identified in figures 5.1 of the Scoping Report, the proposed development is located adjacent to the Humber Estuary, which is a designated SSSI, SAC, SPA and Ramsar site and contains Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) nature reserves. The Scoping Report does not provide the detail on the required above-ground infrastructure or pipeline construction and operational activities which would take place within vicinity

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
		Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site – all phases	of the Humber Estuary SSSI and RSPB nature reserves. As such, activities could result in potential significant impacts on these designations, and an assessment of effects will need to be set out in the ES.
3.1.9	Paragraphs 5.5.37 and 5.5.38	Ancient woodlands	Table 5.9 and figure 5.2a of the Scoping Report details the ancient woodland parcels within 2km of the Scoping Boundary with table 5.10 and figure 5.2b detailing the ancient and veteran trees. The Report states that the proposed pipeline route will prioritise avoiding highly valuable assets such as ancient woodland and important hedgerows. Trenchless construction techniques will be used to minimise effects. Notwithstanding this, the potential for indirect impacts on ancient woodland remains and requires further consideration. The ES should include an assessment of potential indirect and unintended direct effects from the proposed development on ancient trees and woodland for all phases of the proposed development. The applicant's attention is directed to comments from the Forestry Commission which advises that a minimum buffer of fifteen metres should be maintained from the boundary of ancient woodland to prevent root damage. In addition, a buffer zone equivalent to at least fifteen times the diameter of the tree is recommended for ancient or veteran trees.
3.1.10	Paragraph 5.6.2	Baseline surveys	The Scoping Report details that no field surveys have been undertaken. However, table 5.14 indicates that wintering bird surveys around the Humber Estuary, could potentially take place in October 2025 with two visits per month until March 2026. It is therefore unclear whether wintering bird surveys have taken place. The ES should clearly state the dates, survey locations, and extent of survey coverage, with use of maps and figures. Natural England provide specific guidance on wintering bird surveys for functionally linked land associated with the Humber Estuary. The applicant will need to consider that to provide a robust baseline it may be necessary to undertake two seasons of wintering bird surveys.
3.1.11	Paragraphs 3.2.12 and 5.3.3	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	The Scoping Report refers to the BNG requirements of the Environment Act (2021). It references the Government's ongoing consultation on the implementation of BNG,

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			stating that the applicant is waiting for further information on how BNG will be applied to hydrogen pipelines and NSIPs. The Inspectorate recommends that the proposed development should adequately prepare to demonstrate that the emerging statutory requirement for BNG is capable of being delivered. Natural England and the Environment Agency have advised that a commitment to BNG delivery is built into the project. It is advised that habitat condition assessments are undertaken. These should be carried out using the published Statutory Biodiversity Metric condition assessment methodologies. Surveys should be completed at an appropriate time of year for the relevant habitat types to ensure that condition assessment criteria can be applied accurately.
3.1.12	Appendix 4A	Habitat reinstatement following construction	The Scoping Report details within the Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) that wherever possible, areas of temporary habitat loss will be reinstated back to the type of habitat affected. While it is acknowledged that vegetation would be reinstated following pipeline installation, the initial removal of vegetation should generally be regarded as permanent for the purposes of assessment and should be subject to an appropriate evaluation of its effects with full details provided of specific measures to avoid LSE to be detailed within the ES.
3.1.13	N/A	Sensitive environmental information	Under Regulation 12(5)(g) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), public bodies have a responsibility to avoid releasing sensitive environmental information that could bring about harm to sensitive or vulnerable ecological features. Sections of the ES containing specific survey and assessment data relating to the location of sensitive species (such as badgers, rare birds, and plants) or other vulnerable environmental features should be provided in separate annexes by the applicant. This approach reduces the sensitive ecological feature's risk of disturbance, damage, persecution, or commercial exploitation arising from publication. The applicant's approach should be proportionate and only use these separate annexes for species where there is a genuine risk of harm.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.1.14	N/A	Environmental data sharing	The ES should clearly describe how environmental data collected in all phases will be shared with the relevant Local Environmental Records Centres and any relevant environmental recording schemes, in line with best practice.

3.2 Historic environment

(Scoping Report Chapter 6)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.1	Table 6.11	Direct impacts on buried archaeological remains – operation, maintenance and decommissioning	Section 2.8 of the Scoping Report describes operational maintenance activities and notes that inspection of the pipeline facilities would not require physical access to the buried pipeline route. Accordingly, the Inspectorate is content to scope out direct impacts upon buried archaeological remains arising from anticipated, scheduled maintenance activities on the basis that, once constructed, the buried pipeline would be left in situ, and no further ground disturbance is anticipated. However, paragraph 2.8.3 acknowledges that excavation may be required during the operational phase if a defect in the pipeline is identified and emergency repairs are needed. As such, unscheduled emergency maintenance activities could result in significant impacts on buried archaeological remains (for example, from ground disturbance), and the ES should therefore set out the scope and nature of these activities and include an assessment of any LSE where appropriate.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.2	Paragraph 6.7.6	Non-designated heritage assets	Table 6.10 scopes in temporary and long-term effects to heritage assets but does not clearly define whether this would incorporate assessment of non-designated heritage assets, as well as designated heritage assets. Paragraph 6.7.6 notes that potential effects to non-designated assets in terms of sensitivity to setting would be identified through a review of Historic Environment Record (HER) Data. This should be presented in the ES alongside the consideration of effects upon designated heritage assets, and non-designated assets should be clearly distinguished in the assessment methodology. The

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			applicant is referred to the comments of Historic England in this regard, as well as those of Lincolnshire County Council (appendix 2).
3.2.3	Paragraph 6.7.3	Indirect disturbance to archaeological remains	Indirect effects upon archaeological remains from ground disturbance and potential dewatering of waterlogged deposits are proposed to be scoped in for the construction phase only. The Inspectorate considers that there is also potential for indirect effects to archaeological remains that would remain in situ during operation from impacts such as the alteration of drainage patterns or changes in ground conditions due to the existence of the proposed development. The ES should therefore consider indirect effects upon archaeological remains for both the construction and operational phases.
3.2.4	Paragraph 6.7.22	Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	Paragraph 6.1.3 states that a ZTV referred to in the landscape and visual chapter will be utilised for the prediction of impacts to heritage receptors. The Scoping Report sets out the proposed study area of 1km to assess impacts on heritage assets in paragraphs 6.5.1 to 6.5.2, but it is not clear if this would extend to include impacts within the ZTV. The Inspectorate recommends the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and heritage consultants liaise closely with regards to the ZTV to ensure heritage assets within the LVIA ZTV are appropriately identified. The methodology for the ZTV should also be agreed with the relevant local authorities.
3.2.5	N/A	Study area	The ES sets out a maximum study area of 1 km for the assessment of archaeological and heritage impacts in paragraph 6.5.3. The applicant's attention is directed to the comments from Historic England and Lincolnshire County Council (appendix 2) on this matter, which highlight the need for a flexible approach that allows important heritage assets beyond this fixed radius to be considered.
3.2.6	N/A	Heritage receptors	The applicant's attention is directed to the comments of Historic England (appendix 2), which identify additional heritage assets to be considered in the assessment, notably around Laxton. The applicant should seek to agree the heritage receptors to be included within the heritage assessment with relevant consultation bodies and include an assessment in relation to these receptors, where significant effects are likely to occur.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.2.7	N/A	Visual changes	The applicant's attention is directed to the responses of North East Lincolnshire Council and Nottinghamshire County Council (appendix 2), which identify the need to assess visual changes and effects on heritage assets, with particular regard to their setting and contribution to significance. The assessment of landscape and visual effects should identify and assess views to, from, and within such heritage assets, and clearly cross-reference these findings to the heritage assessment.
3.2.8	N/A	HAGI siting	As stated in paragraph 2.5.1, the precise locations of the HAGIs are yet to be confirmed. Search areas have been identified for potential HAGI siting within the preferred route corridor, as shown in figures 2.14a to 2.14d. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from Newark and Sherwood District Council regarding potentially sensitive heritage assets and the suitability of certain areas for above ground infrastructure, which should be considered when finalising the siting of the proposed HAGIs. The assessment of archaeological and heritage impacts should consider any permanent effects arising from the above ground infrastructure where relevant.
3.2.9	N/A	Data sources	The heritage assessment should be informed by multiple datasets, including geophysical surveys, as directed to by Historic England (appendix 2) in their consultation response. The applicant's attention is also directed to the response from North East Lincolnshire Council regarding the need for trial trenching.

3.3 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

(Scoping Report Chapter 7)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.1	Table 7.15	Temporary generation of turbid runoff - operation and maintenance phases	Scoping Report paragraph 2.8.3 identifies that defects would require repair and there would be routine maintenance and operational activities. Structural maintenance and use of vehicles could lead to pollution, with no management measures being proposed. On this basis, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out and consider that the ES should provide a description of potential impact pathways for pollution during operation and maintenance based on proposed activities, along with their location and duration, and assess any significant effects that are likely to occur. The ES should describe and secure any associated avoidance and mitigation measures.
3.3.2	Table 7.15	Damage to flood defence and surface water drainage infrastructure – operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases	The Inspectorate agrees that based on the operation and maintenance activities set out in section 2.8 of the Scoping Report, changes to existing flood defences or surface water drainage would be unlikely. Additionally, the Scoping Report proposes that pipelines would be left in situ at decommissioning. The Inspectorate agrees this matter can be scoped out of further assessment on the basis the ES confirms and secures that the pipelines would be left in situ at decommissioning. If there is potential for them to be removed, potential LSE to flood defences and surface water drainage infrastructure should be assessed in the ES.
3.3.3	Table 7.15	Pollution to groundwater resources or disruption of groundwater flows – operation,	The Scoping Report proposes that pipelines would be left in situ at decommissioning and that the operation and maintenance activities set out in section 2.8 of the Scoping Report would not lead to direct pollution effects and disruption of groundwater flows. The Inspectorate considers that there would be a possibility of contamination at decommissioning whether any infrastructure is either left in situ or removed. Additionally, the Inspectorate considers that contamination may arise from existing contaminants

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
		maintenance and decommissioning phases	migrating along the proposed development infrastructure impacting upon controlled waters; this matter is scoped in for Ground Conditions in table 12.9 of the Scoping Report. The ES should assess LSEs from pollution to groundwater resources or disruption of groundwater flows during operation and maintenance and decommissioning.
3.3.4	Table 7.15	Accidental spillages and leakages of pollutants affecting surface water or ground water in operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases	The Scoping Report states that accidental spillages and leakages to the surface water and groundwater environments would be unlikely during operation, maintenance and decommissioning. However, it is unclear what activities would be required for maintenance and whether there would be potential for spills and leaks; no mitigation is proposed to manage such events. On this basis, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out. The ES should determine whether there are any impact pathways from maintenance activities and assess any associated significant effects that are likely to occur. Any measures to avoid and mitigate potential effects should be described and secured.
3.3.5	Table 7.14	Dewatering effects to groundwater in construction phase	Table 7.14 identifies dewatering as a potential impact to surface water flows and flood risk but does not identify potential impacts to groundwater levels, quality and flows. The ES should assess any potential LSE from dewatering and other impacting activities to groundwater levels, quality and flows. Any groundwater avoidance and mitigation measures should be described and secured.
3.3.6	Table 7.14	Changes to surface water runoff in operational phase	Table 7.14 identifies that during operation, impacts from changes to surface water runoff could affect hydrology and flood risk but it only references fluvial and tidal flood risk. The Inspectorate considers that additional hardstanding during operation has potential to affect groundwater levels and surface water flood risk and these impacts should be assessed in the ES.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.7	Paragraph 7.7.19	Cumulative effects in operational phase	This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that new development is legally required to control effects to the water environment. However, the Inspectorate notes that potential LSE during operation and maintenance are scoped in, in table 7.14 for changes to flood risk from permanent changes to surface water runoff patterns. This has potential to act cumulatively with other development where they are being constructed, operated or decommissioned. The Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out; the ES should provide an assessment of potential LSE during operation from cumulative effects.
3.3.8	N/A	Impacts to assets – all phases	The Scoping Report does not identify potential impacts to other water infrastructure as receptors (for example, as set out in the consultation response from Anglian Water and Canal Rivers Trust). The ES should assess potential significant effects to other water infrastructure assets where they are likely to occur during all phases of the proposed development.
3.3.9	Table 7.14	Water use – all phases	The Inspectorate notes that impacts to water supply are identified through the impact of hydrostatic pressure testing in Scoping Report table 7.14. However, it is unclear whether there would be any other requirements for water use. The Inspectorate also notes that the proposed development is located within areas of water stress. The ES should identify where water is anticipated to be sourced from and in what quantities and assess any potential direct and indirect impacts from water use during all phases of the proposed development where they have potential to lead to LSE.
3.3.10	Tables 7.14 and 16.6	Flood risk – all phases	Whilst flood risk is scoped into assessment as per the 'description of impact' in Scoping Report table 7.14, it is not explicit as to which flood risks are being assessed. Some sources have also been omitted including sewer flood risk although Scoping Report table 16.6 identifies a potential LSE from sewer flooding in relation to climate change.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			The ES should identify sources of flood risk and assess significant effects to and from the proposed development from sources of flood risk where they are likely to occur.
3.3.11	Table 7.14	Flood defence failure – all phases	The Scoping Report does not propose to assess flood defence failure despite flood defences being identified in section 7.5. The Scoping Report does not describe the condition or management of the flood defences and therefore the scenario for flood defence failure is unknown. The ES should describe the location, condition and maintenance and mitigation measures of such flood defences in relation to the proposed development and provide an assessment of significant effects where they are likely to occur.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.3.12	Paragraph 7.5.6	Climate change projections	The Scoping Report determines the lifetime of the proposed development to be 40 years with the potential for it to extend beyond 40 years. Scoping Report paragraph 7.5.6 states that a worst-case operational flood risk scenario is where the elements of the proposed development are operational over 40 years and will consider the implications of climate change beyond 40 years. It is unclear whether climate change projections would be applied based on the 40-year lifetime or longer. The ES should be explicit in what the reasonable worst-case scenario is based on the potential lifetime of the project; and where this would extend beyond 40 years, the appropriate climate change projections should be applied to the assessment. The applicant should seek to agree the approach with the relevant consultation bodies.
3.3.13	Tables 7.13 and 7.14	Drilling fluids	It is proposed that hazardous drilling fluids would not be used during trenchless crossings in table 7.13. However, the Inspectorate notes that impacts from the potential leakage and breakout of bentonite during Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) works is scoped in for further assessment. For clarity, the ES should identify where drilling fluids are required

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			and provide an assessment of LSE from potential breakouts of drilling fluid. A bentonite breakout management plan should be submitted with the ES setting out appropriate mitigation measures to manage any accidental leakages.
3.3.14	N/A	Saline intrusion	Given the location of the proposed development near the coast in section A (figure 7.2a), the Inspectorate considers there is potential for saline intrusion with excavation works. This is also an impact identified in table 16.16 of the climate change chapter. The Scoping Report does not discuss potential impacts from saline intrusion in the hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk chapter. The ES should determine if there are potential risks from saline intrusion and assess any significant effects to water receptors where they are likely to occur.
3.3.15	Table 7.14 and section 7.8	Effects to the intertidal/ marine environment	It is unclear from table 7.14 whether impacts to the intertidal/marine environment are included as a receptor, particularly as they are not named in section 7.8 as a sensitive receptor. For clarity the ES should assess any potential LSE on the intertidal/marine environment, this should include, but not limited to, pollution effects, accidental spills and bentonite breakout.
3.3.16	Table 7.13	Wastewater management	Scoping Report table 7.13 sets out the proposed commitments but does not include proposed management measures for wastewater. The ES should explain how wastewater would be managed across all phases of the proposed development and explain how these measures are secured.
3.3.17	Paragraph 7.7.8	Sensitive receptors	The Environment Agency identify a number of sensitive receptors not considered or described in the baseline environment in Scoping Report section 7.5 that are known to be present in the study area, for example, chalk streams, groundwater springs and blow wells. The ES should identify a full list of sensitive receptors and explain how the degree of sensitivity is applied to such receptors referencing appropriate guidance; the applicant should seek to agree the approach to the assessment with the relevant consultees.
3.3.18	Table 7.14	Permanent changes to surface water	The Inspectorate notes that this impact is scoped in but only relates to the HAGI and BVI whereas other elements relate to 'all above ground infrastructure'. The difference

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
		runoff patterns affecting surface hydrology and flood risk	between the two is unclear. In the interest of clarity, the ES should assess permanent changes to surface water runoff patterns for all above ground infrastructure where it has potential to cause LSEs in this regard.

3.4 Landscape and visual

(Scoping Report Chapter 8)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.1	Table 8.11	Key characteristics of National Character Areas (NCA)	The applicant proposes to scope out any changes to NCA's on the basis that construction activity is short term and above ground infrastructure would cover only a very small part of each NCA. The Inspectorate does not support scoping out NCA from the ES. Paragraph 8.5.19 states that there are no national landscape designations within the study area, with the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape being the closest which lies approximately 10km south-east of the scoping boundary. It does not refer to the Humber Estuary, which is adjacent to the proposed development. Landscape and visual effects from construction activity, including the implementation of temporary construction compounds and removal of vegetation would need to be taken into consideration. There is also uncertainty on landscape impacts with the locations of the above ground infrastructure still subject to further design and refinement of the routing corridor. As such, it is problematic at this stage to conclude that there will be no LSE. The Inspectorate therefore considers that it is not appropriate to scope out potential effects on NCAs at this stage. The LVIA should determine whether there are any significant impacts on any NCA along the pipeline route with an assessment of any cumulative impacts with other infrastructure on these NCAs.
3.4.2	Table 8.11 and paragraph 11.7.9	Movement of vehicles – operation and maintenance	Visual effects associated with maintenance visits are proposed to be scoped out of the ES. This is on the basis that such visits would be low in frequency. The Inspectorate agrees with this approach, this is on the basis that ES includes sufficient detail on operational traffic movements. The applicant should also refer to ID 3.5.3 regarding the requirement to specify the number and type of maintenance vehicle movements in the ES.
3.4.3	Table 8.11 and	Visual effects on low sensitivity receptors – all phases	The applicant proposes that visual effects experienced by motorway users, rail passengers, individuals within industrial areas, and people at places of work can be scoped out from further assessment. This is on the basis that such receptors experience

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
	paragraph 8.8.5		predominantly transient views and are considered to have a low susceptibility to visual change. The Inspectorate is satisfied that this matter can be excluded from further assessment within the ES.
3.4.4	Table 8.11	Night-time lighting effects – all phases	Effects arising from security lighting associated with temporary construction compounds, vehicle movements and operational HAGIs are proposed to be scoped out, on the basis that construction lighting would be temporary and that operational HAGI lighting would be used only intermittently. However, the construction phase will typically take up to 6 months and so may be longer. Based on the information provided, the Inspectorate does not agree that lighting effects are capable of being scoped out. The ES should include an assessment of the potential effects from night-time lighting on visual amenity and landscape character during all phases or provide a clear and robust justification as to why LSE would not arise. Any proposed mitigation measures should be clearly described and appropriately secured.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.4.5	Paragraphs 8.5.3 to 8.5.10	Study areas	Paragraph 8.5.6 of the Scoping Report details that experience of comparable assessments indicates that significant landscape and visual effects are unlikely to occur beyond 1km for this scale of development, with impacts of BVIs anticipated to be lower than those of the HAGIs. Once the study area has been finalised, the LVIA should provide a clear justification for the agreed extent and viewing distances, demonstrating that the approach is proportionate and appropriately focused on areas where significant landscape and visual effects are likely to occur.
3.4.6	Table 8.9	Landscape and Ecological	The Scoping Report states that the LEMP, or separate plans for Landscape and Visual and Biodiversity aspects, will cover both construction and operation and maintenance aspects of the proposed development. Table 8.10 identifies visual effects from above ground infrastructure during project decommissioning, with table 5.17 identifying the potential for

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
		Management Plan (LEMP)	habitat loss and damage during decommissioning. The Inspectorate advises that in order to protect and enhance any impacted landscapes and habitats over the long term, the LEMP should also cover the decommissioning phase of the proposed development.

3.5 Air quality

(Scoping Report Chapter 9)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.1	Table 9.8	Dust and particulate matter emissions – operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases	The Inspectorate agrees that, based on the nature of the proposed development, the operational and maintenance phases would not generate significant emissions of dust or particulate emissions and is content to scope this matter out of further assessment. However, the Inspectorate notes that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate why significant effects would be unlikely to occur at the decommissioning phase. Decommissioning processes outlined in paragraphs 2.9.1 to 2.9.6, including grout filling of major rail, road and watercourse crossings, have potential to generate impacts akin to those described during the construction stage. The Scoping Report states that mitigation measures would be included within a separate decommissioning plan, but further detail is required in the ES to explain what these measures would entail. The ES should therefore provide information on the potential dust emissions at decommissioning and the sensitivity of the human and ecological receptors (amenity) within the study area to support a conclusion that this matter would not give rise to significant effects.
3.5.2	Table 9.8	Vehicle emissions – decommissioning	This matter is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that effects from decommissioning would be less than those at the construction phase, and relevant mitigation measures to reduce any potential adverse impacts would be included within the proposed decommissioning plan. However, paragraph 9.2.2 notes that there is limited detail on decommissioning phase traffic routes and flows available at this stage, and therefore the Inspectorate is unable to scope this matter out at this stage. The ES should clearly set out the likely number and type of vehicle movements, and vehicle routing required for decommissioning, and provide an assessment of LSEs.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.3	Table 9.8	Vehicle emissions – operation and maintenance	This is proposed to be scoped out for human receptors on the basis that the number of anticipated movements during operation, as outlined in table 11.7, are unlikely to exceed the screening criteria set out by Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM, 2017) and the Environmental Policy Implementation Community (EPIC). However, for ecological receptors, further confirmation is required on whether detailed assessment is needed using the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (2021) and IAQM (2020) guidance criteria. Provided that the ES includes sufficient detail to demonstrate that operational traffic movements will not exceed all IAQM, EPIC and JNCC guidance criteria for both human and ecological receptors, vehicle emissions may be scoped out of further assessment. However, the ES should specify the number and type of vehicle movements, including the number of anticipated planned maintenance trips, likely to be required during the operational phase to justify this.
3.5.4	Table 9.8	Emissions generated from Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) – all phases	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that emissions would adhere to the emission standards set out in the European Regulation 2016/1628. However, without details on the location, type, quantity, use and duration of the NRMM in all phases of the proposed development, the Inspectorate is unable to scope this matter out at this stage. The ES should clearly demonstrate why emissions from NRMM would not lead to significant effects.
3.5.5	Table 9.8	Potential release of hydrogen – all phases	This matter is proposed to be scoped out of the ES on the basis that the release of hydrogen emissions through venting would be minimal and would readily disperse due to the light density of the gas. The Inspectorate agrees with this approach and that hydrogen leakage would be unlikely to give rise to significant effects for air quality for all stages of the proposed development and is therefore content to scope this matter out of further assessment. However, considering that there is limited information provided on potential effects of hydrogen leakage upon atmospheric composition, including any impacts upon

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			methane concentration and ozone formation, the ES should clearly demonstrate consideration of potential air quality implications from this. Table 9.8 states that pipeline inspections would only be undertaken every one to five years, and there is limited evidence to justify this frequency. Therefore, the ES should clearly address the monitoring of hydrogen leakage and set out the exact measures to minimise any potential leakages, and how these would be secured.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.5.6	Table 9.6	Effects on statutory and non-statutory designated ecological sites	Table 9.6 notes that siting of temporary construction compounds would avoid sensitive sites where practically possible. The Inspectorate notes the close proximity of the adjacent Humber Estuary European designated sites (depicted in figures 9.2a to 9.2e), SSSIs, and ancient woodland within the site boundary, and therefore the ES should confirm the location of the proposed construction compounds and outline the measures to ensure nearby sensitive sites would not be adversely affected by dust and particulate emissions, and how these would be secured. The applicant's attention is directed to the consultation response from Natural England (appendix 2) in relation to air quality impacts upon international designated sites which should be considered in the ecological assessment.
3.5.7	N/A	Sensitive receptors	The ES should include waterways and their users as sensitive receptors in the air quality assessment. The applicant's attention is directed to comments from the Canal and River Trust (appendix 2).

3.6 Noise and vibration

(Scoping Report Chapter 10)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.1	Table 10.14	Operational noise - pipeline	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of noise from the underground pipeline during operation. The Inspectorate agrees that noise from the operation of the underground pipeline is unlikely to result in significant effects and is content that this matter can be scoped out.
3.6.2	Table 10.14	Vibration impacts - operational infrastructure	On the basis that keeping vibration to a minimum would be embedded in the pipeline design as a necessity to maintain pipeline and valve integrity and provided regular condition monitoring is implemented as proposed and secured, the Inspectorate agrees that significant effects from operational vibration are unlikely. As such, this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.6.3	Table 10.14	Noise and vibration impacts from maintenance of HAGI	As described in section 10.3, the pigging facilities, Pressure Reduction Stations (PRSs), and metering units contained within the HAGI compounds have potential to give rise to noise. Without confirmation of the likely duration and frequency of the pigging activities and considering that the precise locations of the HAGIs is not yet determined, the Inspectorate is unable to agree that sensitive receptors would not be impacted and therefore does not agree to scope this matter out. The ES should clarify where the HAGI compounds would be located and should identify any nearby sensitive receptors which could be impacted by noise generated from above ground infrastructure during maintenance works, assessing any LSEs from such activities.
3.6.4	Table 10.14	Noise and vibration impacts from traffic –operation and maintenance	The Scoping Report states that operational traffic movements are likely to be infrequent and are unlikely to result in significant effects. On the basis that there will be minimal additional road traffic during operation, as corroborated by table 11.17 of the traffic and transport chapter, the Inspectorate agrees that there are unlikely to be significant effects

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			and this matter can be scoped out of the ES. The ES should specify the number and type of vehicle movements, including the number of anticipated planned maintenance trips to the HAGIs and BVIs, likely to be required during the operational phase to justify this.
3.6.5	Table 10.14	Adverse health effects from noise and vibration impacts – all phases	On the basis that the pipeline would incorporate British Standards Institution (BSI) guidance on human health into the design, and subject to the mitigation measures described being secured and implemented, the Inspectorate agrees that adverse health outcomes are not likely and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.6.6	Table 10.14	Noise and vibration from emergency valve operations – operation and maintenance	The applicant proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that emergency operations are rare, brief, and controlled, and significant noise or vibration effects are not likely. The Inspectorate is content with this approach and agrees this can be scoped out of further assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.7	Paragraph 10.8.18	Ecological archaeological and heritage receptors	The Scoping Report notes that there is potential for noise and vibration to impact nearby sensitive ecological, archaeological and heritage receptors during all phases of the proposed development. It is proposed for these potential effects are considered in chapter 5: Biodiversity and chapter 6: Historic Environment respectively, however, the noise assessment should cross-refer to the findings of these relevant aspect chapters. The list of potential receptors identified in paragraph 10.8.2 should also be reviewed and updated as further baseline data is gathered and decisions are made, including on the location of the above ground infrastructure and construction compounds, to ensure that all sensitive receptors that may experience significant effects are included within the assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.6.8	Paragraph 10.6.1	Study area	The Scoping Report states that the study area for assessing noise and vibration impacts has been set as a 2 km buffer around the scoping boundary which is 'based on professional judgement and previous experience of linear infrastructure works.' The Inspectorate expects further explanation and justification be provided in the ES to support the study area used for the assessment with reference to specific receptors or groups of receptors.
3.6.9	N/A	Sensitive receptors	The ES should also include waterways and their users as sensitive receptors in the noise assessment. The applicant's attention is directed to comments from the Canal and River Trust (appendix 2), particularly concerning the potential vibration effects of HDD under the waterways.

3.7 Traffic and transport

(Scoping Report Chapter 11)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.1	Table 11.17	Effects on receptors on the LHN and SRN from traffic - operation and maintenance	The applicant proposes to scope out effects on both local and strategic highway users on the basis that above ground installations (HAGI and BVI) would be unmanned, with site attendance limited to infrequent visits (anticipated at approximately six-monthly intervals) undertaken by light-duty vehicles. However, it is noted in paragraph 5.2.3 that, in addition to planned maintenance activities, routine operational checks are anticipated to occur on a weekly basis. Notwithstanding this, based on the information provided, the Inspectorate agrees that LSE on receptors arising from operational and maintenance traffic are unlikely and that this matter can therefore be scoped out of further assessment within the ES.
3.7.2	Table 11.17	Effects on roads and road users - decommissioning	The applicant proposes to scope out traffic effects during the decommissioning phase on the basis that the pipeline would largely remain in situ beyond its operational lifetime and that associated traffic movements would be limited in scale and frequency. However, the commitment to preparing a decommissioning plan in table 11.15 states that the Plan will consider the potential for below-ground infrastructure to remain in situ, where appropriate. This introduces uncertainty regarding the extent of decommissioning activities and associated traffic movements. As traffic movements would be required for the removal of HAGIs and BVIs, there remains the potential for significant effects to arise. On this basis, the Inspectorate does not consider that traffic effects during decommissioning can be scoped out at this stage. The ES should identify the likely traffic generated during decommissioning, including the assumptions and methodology used to estimate traffic movements. It should set out any measures proposed to manage potential

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			impacts on the highway network. Where the potential for LSEs is identified, these should be fully assessed in the ES.
3.7.3	Table 11.17	Effects on Local Highway Network (LHN) and Strategic Road Network (SRN) from hazardous loads	The applicant proposes to scope out LSE from hazardous loads, on the basis that there are no hazardous loads associated with pipeline construction. On the basis of the information provided, the Inspectorate is content for this matter is capable of being scoped out of assessment.
3.7.4	Table 11.17	Disruption to railway operations	The Scoping Report details that during pipeline construction; trenchless techniques will be used to cross railways. The applicant commits to consultation with National Rail to ensure rail services remain unaffected. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content that impacts on railway operations can be scoped out from the ES.
3.7.5	Table 11.17	Impacts on Public Right of Way (PRoW) and National Cycle Network (NCN) routes - operation	The applicant proposes to scope out LSE on linear features on the basis that these routes will be fully reinstated after construction. The Scoping Report details that any permanent land take would lead to a permanent diversion around a HAGI. With HAGIs assumed to be a maximum of 2ha in size, the applicant concludes that any diversion would not be substantial enough to create a significant effect. The Inspectorate does not support this conclusion. The ES should include a detailed assessment of the impacts to users of PRoW during construction and within the operational phases. This assessment should be supported by pedestrian/cycle user counts where necessary, with efforts made to agree the locations for such counts with relevant consultation bodies. Where relevant, the ES should assess potential interactions between aspect assessments (for example traffic and transport, noise, air quality, socioeconomics and visual amenity). The locations of any diversions or closures should also be illustrated on suitable figures in the ES.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.7.6	N/A	Alternative transport method of construction materials	The Scoping Report makes no reference to using non-road modes of transport that might be available to transport construction materials as part of the proposed development. The Inspectorate considers that there may be opportunities to mitigate the pressure on sensitive road infrastructure through using alternative, more sustainable travel modes. As detailed in table 3a.7, the overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) sets expectations for how energy infrastructure projects should assess and manage transport impacts, requiring applicants to prepare proportionate Transport Assessments and demonstrate how construction and operation will avoid significant effects on the road network, ensure safe access, and support sustainable travel options. The applicant is encouraged to explore the use of all modes of transportation as part of the proposed development.

3.8 Ground conditions

(Scoping Report Chapter 12)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.1	Table 12.10	Exposure to existing contamination in soils and groundwaters and soil/dust vapours – construction and decommissioning	The Scoping Report proposes a number of mitigation measures and commitments to avoid potential LSE: • personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements will be set out and secured in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) • procedures prior to construction relating to encountering unforeseen contamination. • construction design management regulations and safe working practices under health and safety management procedures would be in place. • decommissioning would be the reverse of construction practices and therefore no new contamination would be encountered. The Inspectorate agrees that on the basis the above measures and commitments are secured in the application, no significant effects are likely to occur, and this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.8.2	Table 12.10	Impacts to human health from accidental spillages and leaks from plant and equipment – all phases	The Scoping Report identifies that staff during all phases would be subject to working procedures and appropriate PPE requirements as secured in the CEMP. Refuelling is proposed to be undertaken in designated areas where spills can be contained and reduce potential exposure. On the basis the above measures are described and secured through relevant plans for each phase of the proposed development, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out during construction but does not agree that this matter can be scoped out during operation; the ES should provide an assessment of significant effects to human health during operation or else explain how any potential significant effects would be

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			mitigated. The ES should describe and secure any relevant mitigation measures during the operation and maintenance phase where they are proposed.
3.8.3	Table 12.10	Encountering Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) posing an explosive risk – construction phase	The Scoping Report proposes a detailed desk based UXO risk assessment which would identify areas of risk to construction works and inform appropriate mitigation measures. It is not determined whether detonation would be required; the Inspectorate considers that UXO detonation could have LSEs on ground conditions. The ES should confirm under a worst-case scenario whether UXO detonation could take place and assess any resultant LSEs or explain why a significant effect would not occur. The ES should describe and secure any relevant mitigation measures.
3.8.4	Table 12.9 and paragraph 12.7.2	Mobilisation of existing contamination impacting soil – all phases	Table 12.9 identifies that construction, and decommissioning may result in contamination of controlled waters in surrounding ground. The Inspectorate also considers that this has potential to contaminate other areas of ground not previously contaminated due to excavations and activities such as HDD. The Inspectorate notes that soil contamination is not proposed to be assessed in the Agriculture and Soil Resources chapter. The ES should assess potential LSE from the mobilisation of contaminants to soil during all phases or present appropriate justification to demonstrate the absence of LSE.
3.8.5	Table 12.9	Ground instability – construction and decommissioning phases	The Inspectorate notes that effects to the project infrastructure from ground instability is scoped in for operation and maintenance but not during construction and decommissioning. Scoping Report section 12.5 identifies a number of historic landfills which could impact ground settlement and stabilisation and a number of waterways which could be impacted. The ES should assess potential LSE from ground instability during construction and decommissioning or present appropriate justification to demonstrate the absence of LSE.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.6	Paragraphs 12.7.13 and 12.7.14	Cumulative effects	Effects from the loss of, or damage to mineral resources from cumulative effects is proposed to be scoped into the assessment. The Inspectorate agrees that other cumulative effects during operation are unlikely given the nature of the scheme and operational cumulative effects can be scoped out of further assessment. However, the Scoping Report only proposes to assess concurrent construction effects. The ES should assess cumulative effects during decommissioning where they are likely to be significant.
3.8.7	N/A	Thermal effects – all phases	The Scoping Report does not discuss the temperature of the pipeline during operation, and it is unknown whether there would be potential for thermal effects to surrounding soils. The ES should determine whether there would be potential impact pathway for thermal or cooling effects to the soils surrounding the proposed development infrastructure. Where a pathway exists, the ES should include an assessment of LSEs.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.8.8	Paragraph 12.7.2 and table 12.5	Receptor sensitivity	Groundwater aquifers are identified in Scoping Report paragraph 12.7.2 but the receptor sensitivity is not defined in table 12.5. Additionally, source protection zones and abstractions are not included. The ES should identify all sensitive receptors that are located within the study area and define the sensitivity of receptors in line with relevant guidance; the applicant should seek to agree the approach with the relevant consultees.
3.8.9	Paragraph 12.5.92	Omitted sensitive receptors	The Inspectorate notes that Nottinghamshire County Council identify a number of omitted sensitive receptors including Kirton Quarry and a number of active waste sites. Kirton Quarry is identified by the Council to be located within section D of the Scoping Boundary of the proposed development which includes a permitted extraction area.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
			Paragraph 12.5.92 states that there are no currently operating extraction sites within section D of the study area. The ES should confirm the identification of sensitive receptors with the relevant consultation bodies and assess associated LSEs.

3.9 Agriculture and soil resources

(Scoping Report Chapter 13)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.1	Paragraph 13.5.3	Assessment of the operation and maintenance phase effects of below ground aspects such as pipeline	The Scoping Report states that the assessment of the operation and maintenance phase effects will be limited to the above ground aspects of the proposed development. Considering the nature of the proposed development, the Inspectorate is content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.9.2	Table 13.15	Damage to land drainage systems during construction and decommissioning	The applicant proposes to scope out the LSE from collapse or blockage of existing land drainage and/ or silting and flow restriction of drainage ditches on the basis that reinstatement and repair of land drains will be undertaken during construction and decommissioning. These measures are secured as a commitment within the CEMP and Soil Management Plan (SMP) to ensure existing land drainage systems are maintained and diverted as necessary during construction and reinstated during decommissioning. The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are unlikely and is therefore content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.9.3	Table 13.15	Temporary impacts to soil resources and agricultural land during operation	The applicant proposes to scope out the temporary loss and potential damage of topsoil and agricultural land during hydrogen pipeline maintenance activity on the basis that the pipeline can be inspected internally using intelligent in-line inspection (ILI) technology. This means that any intrusive maintenance work can be precisely targeted and is likely to be infrequent and limited in extent. The Inspectorate agrees that significant effects are unlikely and is therefore content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.9.4	Table 13.7	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey	The Scoping Report sets out the proposed ALC survey approach, whereby soils and ALC surveys will be undertaken across areas of permanent infrastructure to inform the baseline for the ES chapter and the SMP for the proposed development. To ensure an accurate assessment of potential impacts on agricultural land resources, the ES should include a comprehensive ALC survey covering the entire project boundary. This will allow the ES to robustly identify the quality and extent of agricultural land affected and to assess the significance of associated impacts. The ES should contain a clear tabulation of the areas of land in each Best Most Versatile (BMV) classification that would be temporarily or permanently lost as a result of the proposed development, with reference to accompanying map(s) depicting the ALC grades. Specific justification for the use of the land by grade should be provided. Consideration should be given to the use of BMV land in the applicant's discussion of alternatives. The applicant's attention is directed to the comments of Natural England (appendix 2) in this regard.

3.10 Population and communities

(Scoping Report Chapter 14)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.1	Paragraphs 14.2.1 and 14.6.18	Health impact assessment (HIA)	The Scoping Report states that a separate HIA would not be required in lieu of the population and communities assessment. Effects on human health and wellbeing including air quality, noise, loss in visual amenity, opportunities for physical activity and recreation, and employment opportunities are proposed to be considered within other ES chapters such as noise and vibration, air quality, landscape and visual, traffic and transport. The Inspectorate is content that human health does not need to be assessed as a standalone ES aspect chapter. However, human health and wellbeing (for example, health effects arising from impacts to environmental amenity and environment determinants of health), both alone and cumulatively, should be considered within relevant ES chapters including noise and vibration, air quality, landscape and visual, traffic and transport, ground conditions and the water environment. To ensure that relevant information can be easily located, the Inspectorate recommends that the EIA methodology ES chapter provides clear cross referencing to where the relevant impacts on human health are considered. The assessment should be informed by relevant guidance such as the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) 2022 guidance 'Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment'.
3.10.2	Table 14.30	Increased macro-economic incentives for local industry development during operational phase	The applicant proposes to scope this matter out from further assessment on the basis that it is unlikely that a large number of businesses will be included considering the number of existing industries near the proposed development, the scale of the proposed development, and potential future connections.

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
			The Inspectorate agrees that the potential for significant effects would be unlikely and is therefore content that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.10.3	Table 14.30	Increase in mental health burden - potentially reaching allostatic load over unmanaged expectations or concerns about the proposed development at all phases	The applicant proposes to scope out potential mental health impacts arising from unmanaged stress related to the proposed development from further assessment on the basis that safety is an overriding priority for the proposed development and that the use of hydrogen is highly regulated. The Inspectorate notes that the effects on mental health arising specifically from the use of hydrogen gas in the pipeline network are scoped in under 'Increase in public concern and disturbance to future community planning'. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.
3.10.4	Table 14.30	Decreased social cohesion at all phases	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out from further assessment on the basis that the workforce is not expected, as a whole, to be of a nature or scale that would lead to significant effects on social cohesion. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.10.5	Section 14.4	Consultation	The ES should provide evidence of any consultation with relevant consultation bodies including the UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) and set out how this consultation has influenced the scope and assessment methodology.
3.10.6	N/A	Effects on the operational port community arising from loss of storage	The applicant's attention is drawn to the comments from C.GEN Killingholme Limited on the part of the proposed development overlaps with the operational area of CLdN Ports Killingholme. The ES should consider the potential for the use of port land and address the potential risks. The ES should assess the potential impact of the proposed development on

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
		land and operational interfaces	operation of the port, including the reduction in available storage land and interference with safe operations and port security where significant effects are likely to occur.

3.11 Major accidents and disasters

(Scoping Report Chapter 15)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.1	Paragraph 15.5.11	Decommissioning	Potential impacts as a result of decommissioning the proposed development are proposed to be scoped out on the basis that the effects of decommissioning are likely to be similar to or no worse than the effects from construction due to the reduced scale of works and the limited need for intrusive activities. Where it is assumed that the effects of decommissioning are likely to be similar to or no worse than the effects from construction, this should be justified. The ES should provide a proportionate description of the activities and works which are likely to be required to decommission the proposed development. Where significant effects are likely to occur as a result of works to decommission the proposed development, these should be described and assessed in the ES.
3.11.2	Table 15.9 and appendix 15A	Fire in the temporary construction compounds	The Scoping Report states that minor fires arising from temporary construction compounds would be mitigated through standard construction and operational management system and would not escalate into a major accident or disaster. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content that fires in the temporary construction compounds are not likely to lead to significant effects on the environment and agrees this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.11.3	Table 15.9 and appendix 15A	Accidents during maintenance	The Scoping Report states that maintenance activities would be limited in scale, occur infrequently, and involve only small numbers of trained personnel and would not give rise to off-site consequences or environmental harm. Given that these activities would also be conducted in accordance with established health and safety procedures, the Inspectorate is content that accidents during maintenance are not likely to lead to

			significant effects on the environment and agrees this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.11.4	Table 15.9 and appendix 15A	Physical accidents during construction, including dropped objects, excavation hazards and use of machinery	The Scoping Report states that construction related accidents are routine occupational hazards limited to the workforce. In view of the construction activities would be managed under the CEMP and established health and safety requirements, the Inspectorate is content that physical accidents during construction are not likely to lead to significant effects on the environment and agrees this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.11.5	Table 15A	Construction phase activities encountering UXO	The Scoping Report states that Zetica mapping indicates the UXO hazard across the Scoping Boundary is predominantly low-risk. The Inspectorate notes that a desk based Unexploded Ordnance risk assessment will be undertaken prior to construction works to highlight any risk to construction work and provide recommendation and further mitigation, where required. The Inspectorate considers that UXO detonation could have LSEs on ground conditions. The applicant's attend is drawn to ID 3.8.3 of this Opinion. Provided that a confirmation of whether UXO detonation could occur under a worst-case scenario, together with an assessment of relevant risk are presented in the ground conditions ES chapter, and that associated mitigation measures are secured through the DCO, the Inspectorate can agree to scope this matter out from the major accidents and disasters (MAD) ES chapter.
3.11.6	Appendix 15A	Construction traffic accidents	Considering the buried nature of the pipeline and that above-ground installations are located away from major roads and within fenced compounds, the infrastructure is unlikely to be affected by a road-traffic collision and do not have the potential to cause a major accident or disasters. The Scoping Report states that the assessment of construction phase traffic accidents would be assessed in the traffic and transport ES chapter. The Inspectorate is content with this approach and agrees to scope this matter out from the MAD ES chapter.

3.11.7	Appendix 15A	Accidents at navigable waterways	The Scoping Report states that risks to the structural integrity of the navigation and third-party/user safety at the Foss Dyke and River Trent crossings are controlled through trenchless construction, navigation authority approvals and asset-protection measures. With appropriate cover and separation, there would be no open-cut in channel, no interface with vessels/towpath users during crossing passage, and permanent works remain below the bed. The applicant proposes to scope canal/ navigation accidents out of MAD ES chapter on the basis that this will be addressed in the hydrology, hydrogeology, and flood risk ES chapter with design approvals, method statements and construction management controls secured. The Inspectorate is content with this approach and agrees to scope this matter out from the MAD ES chapter.
3.11.8	Table 15.9 and appendix 15A	Aircraft crash; impacts on aviation	The applicant proposes to scope these matters out on the basis that the proposed development would not alter airspace or create new flight safety hazard. Any use of temporary tall plant such as cranes would be limited in number duration and height and would be subject to standard safeguarding consultation protocols if required. Therefore, the proposed development would not increase the risk of an aviation accident or be adversely affected by aviation activity. The Inspectorate has considered the nature and characteristics of the proposed development. Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that the impacts of the proposed development on aviation or impacts from aircraft crashes are not likely to result in significant effects. These matters can be scoped out of the ES.
3.11.9	Appendix 15A	Leaks and spills – pollution to water or ground (including watercourse crossings)	The Scoping Report states that chemical and fuel used within TCCs would be minimised during construction and this can be effectively controlled through standard CEMP measures. Therefore, the applicant considers a credible pathway to a MAD is unlikely. The Scoping Report also states that ground conditions and water environment impacts are assessed in detail within relevant ES chapters. Any mitigation measures that are considered necessary will be described in that ES chapters and included in the

			framework CEMP that accompanies the application. The Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of the MAD ES chapter and considered through the assessment of ground conditions and hydrology, hydrogeology, and flood risk.
3.11.10	Appendix 15A	Operational equipment malfunction / process upset	Based on the justification set out in appendix 15A, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development from these matters are not likely to result in significant effects from major accident and disasters. These matters can be scoped out of the assessment.
3.11.11	Appendix 15A	Structural collapse of assets	The Scoping Report explains that structural collapse is considered unlikely when designed and constructed in accordance with recognised industry standards, regulatory requirements, and the hierarchy of engineering controls. Considering this together with the nature and characteristics of the proposed development and that ground stability issues are required to be addressed, the Inspectorate is content that further consideration of structural collapse of proposed development assets can be scoped out.
3.11.12	Table 15.9 and appendix 15A	Nuclear hazards	The applicant proposes to scope out risks to the proposed development from accidents at nuclear facilities, noting that the closest Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)-regulated nuclear installation is over 40 km from the Scoping Boundary and the proposed development lies entirely outside any Emergency Planning Zones. On this basis, the Inspectorate is content that the risks to the proposed development from accidents at nuclear facilities are not likely to result in significant effects. These matters can be scoped out of the ES.
3.11.13	Appendix 15A	Interaction with transport networks	The Scoping Report states that the assessment of transport safety effects would be assessed in the traffic and transport ES chapter and do not have the potential to generate MADs scale consequences. The Inspectorate is content with this approach and agrees to scope this matter out from the MAD ES chapter.
3.11.14	Appendix 15A	Loss of utilities	The Scoping Report states that the safety-critical equipment of the proposed development will be designed to be fail-safe with backup arrangements embedded

			through the Safety Management System and supported by appropriate design standards. Based on the justification and evidence presented in the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development from these matters are not likely to result in significant effects from MAD. These matters can be scoped out of the assessment.
3.11.15	Table 15.9 and appendix 15A	The following malicious hazards: • cyber attack • terrorism • widespread public disorder	Based on the justification set out in appendix 15A, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development from these matters are not likely to result in significant effects from major accident and disasters. These matters can be scoped out of the assessment.
3.11.16	Appendix 15A	The following extreme meteorological conditions: • high winds • high or low temperatures • heavy rainfalls • storms • drought	The applicant proposes to scope out impacts from extreme meteorological conditions on the basis that such impacts would be managed through engineering design and management controls. The Scoping Report states that wider climatic risks, including wind, rainfall intensity, temperature extremes, storms and drought would be assessed within the hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk and climate change ES chapters. The Inspectorate agrees that rainfall intensity and droughts would be captured through the application of climate change projections in the assessment of hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk, however, it is not evident from the Scoping Report how wind, temperature extremes or storms would be captured in full, given impacts would be wider ranging than rainfall. The ES should provide an assessment of extreme meteorological conditions for storms, high winds and high and low temperatures or explain how they are captured in other assessments provided in the ES.
3.11.17	Table 15.9 and	The following major flood events:	The applicant proposes to scope these matters out from the MAD ES chapter on the basis that flood risk pathways and flood defence infrastructure would be assessed within the, the hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk ES chapter supported by a Flood Risk

	appendix 15A	• flooding (pluvial, fluvial and coastal sources) • failure of flood defences • dam/ reservoir breach	Assessment (FRA). The FRA will consider relevant climate change scenarios and set out mitigation to ensure the proposed development remains safe throughout its lifecycle. The Inspectorate is content with this approach to avoid duplication. However, the Inspectorate notes that the Scoping Report does not explicitly state which flood defence failure and which flood risks are being assessed within the hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk ES chapter. The applicant's attend is drawn to ID 3.3.10 and 3.3.11 of this Opinion. For the avoidance of doubt, the Inspectorate expects any LSEs from these major flood events to be assessed. The Inspectorate advises that cross referencing should be made to assessments in other ES aspect chapters such as hydrology, hydrogeology and flood risk to avoid duplication of effort.
3.11.18	Table 15.9 and appendix 15A	The following natural hazards: • biological threats • lightning • seismic hazards • space weather	Based on the justification set out in appendix 15A, the Inspectorate is content that risks to or from the proposed development from these matters are not likely to result in significant effects from MAD. These matters can be scoped out of the assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.11.19	Table 15.2	Study area	Table 15.2 of the Scoping Report sets out the study areas for external major accidents, whereby a 3km buffer distance is set for Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) establishments and a 1km buffer distance are applied for major accident hazard pipelines. The Inspectorate notes from Health and Safety Executive (HSE) responses that the proposed development appears to cross the consultation zones of several Major Accident Hazard (MAH) sites and MAH pipelines. The ES should ensure the study area reflects the project's Zone of Influence (ZoI) rather than being based on a fixed distance. The ES should consider the potential for effects to occur beyond the proposed buffers, especially that COMAH hazard consultation zones can extend up to several kilometres. Effort should

			be made to agree the external major accident study areas with relevant consultation bodies.
3.11.20	Table 15.7	Pollution Prevention and Emergency Incident Response Plan	The Scoping Report table 15.7 confirms that a Pollution Prevention and Emergency Incident Response Plan will be developed to provide construction phase emergency procedures for fire, explosion, spills, leak events and loss-of-containment incidents. The Inspectorate advises that the plan should comprise full details of all site locations associated with the proposed development, a clear description of the proposed pipeline route, including the depth of the pipework and comprehensive information on all HAGIs, covering their locations, design features, and any associated hazards. In addition, any relevant emergency response information should be set out, such as site access arrangements, emergency contact details, isolation points, and shut-off mechanisms to support safe and effective operational response.

3.12 Climate change

(Scoping Report Chapter 16)

ID	Ref	Applicant's proposed matters to scope out	Inspectorate's comments
3.12.1	Table 16.17	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions during the pre-construction phase	The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that vehicle movements for pre-construction works including site surveys, ground investigations and construction compounds would be 'immaterial' as it would contribute below the 1% threshold of GHG emissions. The Scoping Report does not determine the number and extent of construction compounds required and how many vehicles would be required for pre-construction works. Additionally, paragraph 16.6.33 identifies that immaterial changes would be a change of less than 1% contribution against the carbon budget. Please see ID 3.12.9 below in relation to this matter. On this basis, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out. The ES should set out the anticipated emissions from pre-construction works and factor these into the assessment of LSE or provide an appropriate methodology and reasoning as to why it may be scoped out of further assessment.
3.12.2	Table 16.17	GHG emissions from products and materials – operation	The Inspectorate agrees that based on section 2.6 of the Scoping Report, emissions from the fabric of products and materials following installation is unlikely and this may be scoped out of further assessment.
3.12.3	Table 16.17	GHG emissions from maintenance	The Inspectorate notes that maintenance includes pipeline surveillance which may be undertaken by helicopters. The frequency of surveillance is not provided. Scoping Report table 16.17 states that GHG emissions related to vehicles used for travel during maintenance will be insignificant in comparison to construction traffic, however, it is unclear why this determines significant effects are unlikely.

			The Inspectorate considers that not enough evidence has been provided to scope this matter out. The ES should include an assessment of these matters on the information referred to or provide an appropriate level of evidence to demonstrate the absence of potential LSE in line with an appropriate methodology.
3.12.4	Table 16.17	GHG emissions from the consumption of water – operation and maintenance	The Inspectorate agrees that based on section 2.6 of the Scoping Report, emissions from the consumption of water during operation and maintenance is unlikely and this may be scoped out of further assessment.
3.12.5	Table 16.17	GHG emissions to enable operation – operation and maintenance	It is uncertain what 'other processes' are referred to in scoping this matter out. Due to the lack of information, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out. The ES should identify and describe all potential GHG emitting processes during operation and maintenance and provide an assessment of significant effects where they are likely to occur.
3.12.6	Table 16.17	GHG emissions from user's utilisation of the project – operation and maintenance	The Inspectorate considers that resulting potential downstream GHG emissions from user utilisation of the proposed development during operation and maintenance would be unlikely given that use of hydrogen is unlikely to produce GHG emissions. Therefore, this matter can be scoped out of the ES.
3.12.7	Table 16.18	Climate change effects from increased adverse weather conditions – construction and decommissioning	The Scoping Report states that embedded measures including health and safety measures and risk assessments would minimise potential risks from climate change effects. Examples include stopping works during adverse weather; such measures are proposed to be secured through the CEMP. Impacts from flood risk and water abstraction are proposed to be scoped into the Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk chapter. On the basis that appropriate measures are secured through the CEMP and impacts from flood risk and water abstraction are scoped into the relevant chapter of the ES, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.

3.12.8	Table 16.18	Climate change effects to decommissioned infrastructure of the proposed development	The Scoping Report states that similar embedded measures that are proposed to be implemented at construction would be implemented at decommissioning and would be set out in an Outline Decommissioning Plan (ODP). On the basis appropriate measures are secured through the ODP and impacts from flood risk and water abstraction are scoped into the relevant chapter of the ES, the Inspectorate agrees that this matter can be scoped out of further assessment.

ID	Ref	Description	Inspectorate's comments
3.12.9	Paragraph 16.6.28	Assessment of GHG Emissions - Percentage thresholds for magnitude of change against carbon budgets	Scoping Report paragraph 16.6.33 identifies percentage thresholds for determining whether a change in GHG emissions as a result of the proposed development is immaterial or not and therefore whether it may be scoped out of further assessment. These are thresholds set against the carbon budgets; Scoping Report paragraph 16.6.28 states that in line with RICS whole life carbon methodology, anything below 1% of the total carbon emission can be excluded from reporting and therefore emissions amounting to less than 1% of carbon budgets are considered negligible. However, this latter statement does not align with relevant guidance. The Inspectorate considers that, in line with relevant guidance, any new GHG emissions regardless of the numerical percentage increase from carbon budgets, may be considered significant where they affect the ability of the UK to meet legally binding carbon budgets or net-zero commitments. Carbon budgets represent cumulative, finite policy limits and are not intended to function as receptors with defined percentage thresholds. Therefore, the ES should clarify the distinction between scoping emissions sources out of detailed quantification to be proportionate and providing appropriate justification and the evaluation of the proposed developments overall compatibility with carbon budgets.
3.12.10	N/A	Peat	The Scoping Report identifies peat located within the Scoping Boundary in table 12.3. However, it is unclear where impacts to peat resources would be assessed in the ES and

			whether mitigation measures would be employed and secured to avoid and minimise impacts to peat. Peat is a carbon sink and any impacts to peat may emit CO_2 emissions. The ES should confirm how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied to locating the proposed development in/around peat and assess any LSEs from resultant emissions should peat be impacted by the proposed development.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED

TABLE A1: PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES

Bodies prescribed in schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'APFP Regulations (as amended)')

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Secretary of State for Defence	Ministry of Defence
The relevant parish council	Scotton Parish Council
	Broughton Town Council
	Scawby Parish Council
	Bigby Parish Council
	Northorpe Parish Council
	Sturton By Stow Parish Council
	Thorney Parish Council
	Normanton on Trent with Marnham Parish Council
	Laxton and Moorhouse Parish Council
	Norwell Parish Council
	Averham, Kelham and Staythorpe Parish Council
	Newark Town Council
	Caunton Parish Council
	South Muskham and Little Carlton Parish Council
	Kneesall, Kersall and Ompton Parish Council
	Kirton Parish Council
	Tuxford Town Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Weston Parish Council
	South Clifton Parish Council
	Spalford Parish Council
	Stow Parish Council
	Willingham Parish Council
	Kexby Parish Council
	Hemswell Parish Council
	Willoughton Parish Council
	Kirton in Lindsey Town Council
	Scotter Parish Council
	Manton Parish Council
	Messingham Parish Council
	Cadney Cum Howsham Parish Council
	Brigg Town Council
	Wrawby Parish Council
	Melton Ross and New Barnetby Parish Council
	Kettlethorpe and Laughterton Parish Council
	Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council
	Blyton Parish Council
	Corringham Parish Council
	Aslackby and Laughton Parish Council
	Grayingham Parish Council
	Keelby Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Dunham with Ragnall, Darlton and Fledborough Parish Council
	Ollerton and Boughton Town Council
	Bathley Parish Council
	Wellow Parish Council
	Girton and Meering Parish Council
	Wigsley Parish Council
	North Clifton Parish Council
	Harby Parish Council
	Elsham Parish Council
	Wootton Parish Council
	Ulceby Parish Council
	North Killingholme Parish Council
	East Halton Parish Council
	Barnetby Le Wold Parish Council
	Immingham Town Council
	Stallingborough Parish Council
	Healing Parish Council
	Habrough Parish Council
	Hibaldstow Parish Council
	South Killingholme Parish Council
	Scampton Parish Council
	Cammeringham Parish Council
	Lea Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Gainsborough Town Council
	Fillingham Parish Council
	Glentworth Parish Council
	North Scarle Parish Council
	Eagle and Swinethorpe Parish Council
	Doddington and Whisby Parish Council
	Skellingthorpe Parish Council
	Bishop Norton Parish Council
	Snitterby Parish Council
	Waddingham Parish Council
	North Kelsey Parish Council
	Somerby Parish Council
	Great Limber Parish Council
	Newton on Trent Parish Council
	Fenton and Torksey Parish Council
	Marton and Gate Burton Parish Council
	Knaith Parish Council
	Burton by Lincoln Parish Council
	Ingham Parish Council
	East Stockwith Parish Council
	East Ferry Parish Council
	Hemswell Cliff Parish Council
	Morton Parish Council
	Treswell with Cottam Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	East Markham Parish Council
	Laneham Parish Council
	Rampton and Woodbeck Parish Council
	Markham Clinton Parish Council
	Rufford and Holmeswood Parish Council
	Upton Parish Council
	Upton Parish Council
	Hockerton Parish Council
	Winkburn Parish Council
	Farndon Parish Council
	Hawton Parish Council
	Fernwood Parish Council
	Balderton Parish Council
	Edwinstowe Parish Council
	Perlethorpe cum Budby Parish Council
	Eakring Parish Council
	Sutton-on-Trent Parish Council
	Besthorpe Parish Council
	Grassthorpe Parish Council
	Walesby Parish Council
	Coddington Parish Council
	North Muskham Parish Council
	Winthorpe Parish Council
	Holme Valley Parish Council

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
	Maplebeck Parish Council
	Cromwell Parish Council
	Carlton-on-Trent Parish Council
	Flixborough Parish Council
	Appleby Parish Council
	Roxby cum Risby Parish Council
	Worlaby Parish Council
	Thornton Curtis Parish Council
	Goxhill Parish Council
	East Butterwick Parish Council
	Ashby Parkland Parish Council
	Bottesford Parish Council
	Gunness Parish Council
	Great Coates Village Council
	Owston Ferry Parish Council
	West Butterwick Parish Council
	Redbourne Parish Council
	Kirmington and Croxton Parish Council
The Environment Agency	Environment Agency
Natural England	Natural England
The Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission - East & East Midlands
	Forestry Commission - Yorkshire & North East
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (known as Historic England)	Historic England

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
The Maritime and Coastguard Agency - Regional Office	The Maritime and Coastguard Agency – North East England
The relevant internal drainage board	North East Lindsey Drainage Board
	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board
	Ancholme Internal Drainage Board
	Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board
	Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
The Canal and River Trust	Canal and River Trust
Trinity House	Trinity House
The relevant Highways Authority	North Lincolnshire Council
	Lincolnshire County Council
	Nottinghamshire County Council
	National Highways - Yorkshire & North East
	National Highways - Midlands
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Health and Safety Executive	Health and Safety Executive
United Kingdom Health Security Agency, an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	United Kingdom Health Security Agency
NHS England	NHS England
The Coal Authority	Mining Remediation Authority
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate

SCHEDULE 1 DESCRIPTION	ORGANISATION
The relevant police authority	Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner
	Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
	Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner
The relevant ambulance service	Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Humberside Fire and Rescue Service
	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service
	Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

TABLE A2: RELEVANT STATUTORY UNDERTAKERS

'Statutory undertaker' is defined in The APFP Regulations (as amended) as having the same meaning as in section 127 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008)

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
The relevant Integrated Care Board	NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board
	NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board
NHS England	NHS England
The relevant NHS Trust	Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
	East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Railways	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
	National Highways Historical Railways Estate
Road Transport	The Dunham Bridge Company

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	The Humber Bridge Board
Canal Or Inland Navigation Authorities	Canal and River Trust
Dock and Harbour authority	Associated British Ports
Lighthouse	Trinity House
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 Of Part 1 Of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Homes and Communities Agency	Homes England
The relevant Environment Agency	Environment Agency
The relevant water and sewage undertaker	Anglian Water
	Severn Trent
The relevant public gas transporter	Cadent Gas Limited
	Northern Gas Networks Limited
	Scotland Gas Networks Plc
	Southern Gas Networks Plc
	CNG Services Ltd
	Energy Assets Pipelines Limited
	ES Pipelines Ltd
	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
	GTC Pipelines Limited
	Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
	Humbly Grove Energy Services Limited
	Independent Pipelines Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Indigo Pipelines Limited
	Last Mile Gas Ltd
	Leep Gas Networks Limited
	Mua Gas Limited
	Quadrant Pipelines Limited
	Stark Infra-Gas Limited
	National Gas
The relevant electricity generator with CPO Powers	VPI Immingham Limited Liability Partnership
	EP SHB Limited
	WPO UK Services
	West Burton B Limited
	Cottam Solar Project Limited
	Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd
	Elements Green Trent Limited
	Keadby Generation Limited
	SSE Generation Limited
	C.GEN Killingholme Ltd
	North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park Limited
	One Earth Solar Farm Limited
	Equinor
	RWE Generation UK plc
	Renewable Energy Solutions (RES)
	Tillbridge Solar Limited
	VPI Immingham B Ltd

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	EDF Energy (Thermal Generation) Limited
	West Burton Solar Project Limited
	Uniper UK
	EPUKi
	Lightsource BP
	SSE Renewables Wind Farms (UK) Limited
	Centrica plc
The relevant electricity distributor with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) Limited
	Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc
	Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd
	AGR Networks Ltd
	Aidien Ltd
	Aurora Utilities Ltd
	Eclipse Power Distribution Limited
	Eclipse Power Network Limited
	Energy Assets Networks Limited
	ESP Electricity Limited
	Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited
	Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd
	Harlaxton Energy Networks Limited
	Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd
	Independent Power Networks Limited
	Indigo Power Limited

STATUTORY UNDERTAKER	ORGANISATION
	Last Mile Electricity Ltd
	Leep Electricity Networks Limited
	Mua Electricity Limited
	Optimal Power Networks Limited
	Stark Infra-Electricity Ltd
	The Electricity Network Company Limited
	UK Power Distribution Limited
	Utility Assets Limited
	Vattenfall Networks Limited
The relevant electricity transmitter with CPO Powers	Diamond Transmission Partners Hornsea One Limited
	Diamond Transmission Partners Hornsea Two Limited
	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
	National Energy System Operator (NESO)

TABLE A3: LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 43(3) OF THE PA2008

LOCAL AUTHORITY
City of Lincoln Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Bolsover District Council
West Lindsey District Council
North Kesteven District Council
East Lindsey District Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Gedling Borough Council

LOCAL AUTHORITY
Ashfield District Council
Mansfield District Council
South Kesteven District Council
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Melton Borough Council
City of Doncaster Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
North Lincolnshire Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
North Northamptonshire Council
Nottingham City Council
Peterborough City Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
Rutland County Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Norfolk County Council
Derbyshire County Council
Leicestershire County Council

TABLE A4: THE MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION

Section 42(1)(a) of the PA2008 requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection 42(2).

ORGANISATION

The Marine Management Organisation

TABLE A5: NON-PRESCRIBED CONSULTATION BODIES

ORGANISATION
Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority
East Midlands Combined Authority
Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority

APPENDIX 2: RESPONDENTS TO CONSULTATION AND COPIES OF REPLIES

CONSULTATION BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE:
Anglian Water
Bolsover District Council
C.GEN Killingholme Limited
Canal and River Trust
Dunham Bridge Company
East Lindsey District Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Elements Green Trent Limited
Environment Agency
Forestry Commission - East & East Midlands
Great Coates Village Council
Health and Safety Executive
Historic England
Immingham Town Council
Keadby Generation Limited
Lincolnshire County Council
Marine Management Organisation
Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Melton Borough Council
Ministry of Defence
National Highways
Natural England

Newark and Sherwood District Council
Newark Town Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North East Lindsey Drainage Board
Northern Gas Networks
Nottinghamshire County Council
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
Royal Mail Group
Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
Trinity House
Tuxford Town Council
United Kingdom Health Security Agency
West Lindsey District Council

Jessica Harper
Senior Environmental Advisor
The Planning Inspectorate
By email: H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Lancaster House, Lancaster Way,
Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire. PE29 6XU

www.anglianwater.co.uk
strategicgrowth@anglianwater.co.uk

Your Ref: EN0610001

Our ref: H2East Pipeline/Scoping

2nd April 2026

Dear Jessica,

H2EAST PIPELINE - EIA SCOPING NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION - ANGLIAN WATER RESPONSE

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping report for the H2East Pipeline project.

The following response is submitted on behalf of Anglian Water Services (AWS) in our statutory capacity regarding water resources, the water supply network, water recycling centres (WRCs), water recycling assets and the sewer network, as well as the related role of surface drainage.

The scoping boundary shown in figure 1.1a in the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report EN0610001 Volume 1, runs through the local authority areas of North Kesteven; North Lincolnshire; Northeast Lincolnshire; Lincoln; West Lindsey; and Newark and Sherwood. For context, Anglian Water is the appointed sewerage and water undertaker for most of this route, other than the sections North of Collingham to Newark on Trent, where this is outside the AWS boundary.

AWS works to support the construction and operation of nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) that are conducted in accordance with the Water Industry Act 1991. In view of the guidance in the National Policy Statements e.g. Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (January 2025) and (EN-4) (March 23) and 2024 IAQM guidance15. AWS would expect the following points are assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to set out how the project will be supplied with water and its wastewater managed; how water recycling and supply assets serving residents and business in the area will be protected; and how design has been altered to reduce the need for new infrastructure or the diversion of existing assets. This is relevant for the construction, operation and de-commissioning stages (as applicable).

AWS will work with developers, including those constructing projects under the 2008 Planning Act, to ensure requests for alteration of sewers, wastewater and water supply infrastructure are planned to be undertaken with the minimum of disruption to the project and customers. We would encourage

on-going engagement to ensure that AWS and the developer have reached agreement on the approach to assets and connections in advance of the submission of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) for examination.

The Project and Anglian Water Infrastructure

It is understood; the proposed development includes the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 150km of underground pipeline to facilitate the connection of two new hydrogen production plants at North Killingholme and High Marnham. The pipeline is to be buried along the entire route with the exception of above ground Installations required for junction and connection points and isolation valves.

AWS supports the need for the proposed EIA to ensure a clear understanding of assumptions and cumulative construction impacts to represent a 'worst case' scenario, so that the assessment of likely significant effects is robust. AWS welcomes the use of the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach to address the flexibility of design (Chapter 2 - Para 2.5.2). It is acknowledged that due to the early stages of design and development of the project the precise locations of the Hydrogen Above Ground Installations (HAGIs) and pipeline; nature of infrastructure and construction methods are unable to be confirmed. This is to allow for the consideration of ongoing engineering development, changes arising from environmental surveys and assessment and engagement feedback for input into the final design.

AWS notes that the Scoping Report identifies that there will be instances whereby the project interacts with the existing utilities infrastructure. AWS would therefore expect the next stages of the project (including the EIA) to include reference to any existing infrastructure managed and owned by AWS, and any provision of replacement infrastructure or requirements for new infrastructure.

AWS own programme of projects for AMP8 (2025-30) should be included with the list of cumulative projects to be assessed in the EIA. AWS would like to highlight two aspects which interrelate with the project, (1) the Lincolnshire Reservoir with associated infrastructure; and (2) the SPA pipeline project also in Lincolnshire. Further details are set out below.

Our Business Plan Our Plan 2025 to 2030 - PR24 references record investment and obligation during this next AMP period (2025-30) and through an ambitious Water Industry National Environment Programme (WINEP) as agreed with the Environment Agency as the environmental regulator.

This letter will firstly address the aspects of the project which may interrelate with the Lincolnshire Reservoir including associated infrastructure. Secondly, it will refer to the SPA pipeline and interconnector programme also located in Lincolnshire. This response will then address standard matters which Anglian Water would comment on as the appointed water and sewerage undertaker.

Lincolnshire Reservoir

AWS is proposing to develop a new reservoir in Lincolnshire in the East of England. The need for a new reservoir was established in our Water Resources Management Plan 2020-2045 (WRMP19) and taken forward in our most recent WRMP for 2025-2050 (WRMP24) Water resources management

plan. These together with our other interim strategic supply options including potable water transfer interconnectors support the long-term supply demand balance for water resource across our region, providing drought resilience and environmental protection.

Our new raw water reservoir is at the heart of a whole new water supply project. Together with the associated water infrastructure we need to transfer water to the reservoir, and from the reservoir to homes and businesses, it will secure a reliable water supply for generations to come.

The Lincolnshire reservoir is being progressed through the formal regulatory process established by the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) gated process, recognising the need to plan long term for our region's future water needs. The reservoir will take surplus water, when it is available in the environment, storing it until needed by customers. The DCO application is currently due for submission in winter 2028/2029. The size and scale of the project mean a longer period of pre-application development is needed. Anglian Water has been actively developing this proposal since 2022.

As well as a new reservoir, the Lincolnshire Reservoir project includes associated water infrastructure which is required to abstract and transfer water to the reservoir and then onward into AWS supply network once it has been treated to drinking water standards. Following an options appraisal process we identified routes for the associated water infrastructure, which we presented at our third non statutory phase of consultation that took place between October and December 2025. A map of the project as presented during our phase two consultation in 2024 may be found here: Anglian Water Lincs Reservoir

The proposed reservoir site is situated approximately 7km southeast of Sleaford, approximately halfway between Grantham and Boston. Alongside the reservoir, the project comprises associated water infrastructure including a raw water transfer to the reservoir from the River Trent, together with water treatment and the transfer of potable water from the reservoir to our wider water supply network. The Lincolnshire reservoir project is at an early stage of development, and we are currently refining our proposals, including the transfer of water to the reservoir.

The H2East pipeline route appears to run approximately 3km to the southeast of Torksey, where AWS proposes to develop new above ground infrastructure at the water extraction point from the River Trent. This water will then be transferred to the reservoir. Given this proximity, and the early development stage of both projects, we would like to highlight the potential overlap between the H2East project and the Lincolnshire Reservoir project. We would encourage close co-ordination between the H2East Applicant and AWS, to enable discussions around any potential interfaces between the projects, including how to manage construction, operational and cumulative impacts. Dependant on detailed review, and as the projects develop, it may be appropriate to agree a Statement of Common Ground in due course.

In summary, AWS are keen to engage with H2East as it moves forward in order that the interactions between the projects construction and operation can be understood and managed through appropriate additional Protective Provisions or other legal Agreement, as may be relevant, such that there would be no impediment to the development and implementation of either project.

SPA project comments

AWS is currently undertaking construction of a strategic pipeline project Our strategic pipelines which includes an Interconnector between (1) Irby to Elsham and main pipeline (2) Elsham to Lincoln comprising of 52 kilometres. The H2East project will need to take account of these works as the pipelines will include crossings with the H2East red line boundary in a north-south direction to the south of Elsham. Engagement on project design and any future interactions between the projects will need to be managed.

General Comments

There are existing AWS assets both above and below ground, which serve the surrounding businesses and communities. These include water recycling centres; water treatment works and sewer pumping stations. There are several water mains and sewers within the project area within the highway or its verges which link to these various settlements.

To reduce the need for diversions and the associated carbon impacts of those works, AWS's assets should be identified and mapped to establish interactions with the project with a view to designing the project to avoid impacts upon those assets. Where the project is likely to have a number of interfaces with our underground assets, we advise applicants to contact AWS to discuss provision of further technical/design assessments for clash detection, identification of potential diversions, and asset protection measures. AWS requires that the location and nature of our assets serving local communities have been identified and protected, during construction and operation of the project. This will help to ensure that the proposed order limits are suitable to accommodate such works and help de-risk the delivery programme for the project if any specific issues are identified at an early stage.

We recommend that the locations of our assets are initially identified from a desktop study of http://www.digdat.co.uk/ to establish the extent of our assets within the scheme's application boundary. These should be mapped to establish interfaces with assets and the scheme designed to avoid impacts upon those assets.

For land investigation questionnaires relating to Anglian Water's above ground assets and formal easements, you should contact our estates team on: awsestates@savills.com.

In addition, we strongly recommend that clash detection and asset assessment be undertaken by ourselves as early as possible and before the design fix. This ensures clarity, reduces risk, and supports the timely and efficient delivery of the project. We would not agree that a review of utilities plans is used to inform plans for proposed works prior to construction. Given the large number of NSIPs and other AWS projects being delivered in AMP8, there is a strong advantage to having upfront discussions with AWS in relation to our asset interfaces with the project.

Our National Infrastructure team is responsible for identifying AWS assets in relation to the DCO process. Early engagement is critical to ensure accurate assets data is captured and to avoid potential delays later in the project's lifecycle. Sharing data at an early stage enables timely clash detection and coordination. To support efficient assessment and integration into our systems, it would be

helpful if any revised boundary/mapping is provided in Shapefile format so that we are able to update our records.

Engagement with us on the asset interfaces of the project can include:

- Clash detection and resolution.
- Early design and technical assurance.
- Asset protection and diversion planning.
- Coordination with Anglian Water investment schemes (current and planned).
- Review of red line boundary implications.

You will be assigned a single point of contact (myself) who will coordinate engagement across relevant teams, including the National Infrastructure Team. Discussions with AWS around project scope, timescales, and other key details will ensure that tailored, project-specific advice can be provided to help de-risk the delivery programme as the Project comes forward.

Whilst, costs would be incurred to support project development and internal planning, this can be discussed further with the Applicant. This would provide a high-level desktop assessment of each interface between the project and AWS assets or projects, and will be dependent on project size, complexity and requirement from the project. Typically, this includes input from both AWS Services and our delivery teams.

This process will also help to inform mitigation measures in the Construction Best Practice for underground pipelines, as well as any other environmental and traffic management plans. AWS will need to be a consultee set out in the Requirements of the DCO for the approval of these detailed management plans.

The project should seek to assess whether there are any diversion requirements, the appropriate method of pipeline installation (Open Cut or Trenchless), and suitable mitigation of thermal dispersion and contamination impacts from the construction and operation of underground pipelines, particularly around Source Protection Zones.

AWS considers that where there are interfaces between the project and AWS assets, a Protective Provisions Agreement will be required and included within the draft DCO. As a starting point, AWS requires that the following standoff distances are applied for working each side of the medial line of AWS pipes where construction works are undertaken – including where the pipeline is underground and HAGI compounds.

This information is extracted from our Protective Provisions template - copy attached.

(a) 4 metres where the diameter of the pipe is less than 250 millimetres.
(b) 5 metres where the diameter of the pipe is between 250 and 400 millimetres, and
(c) a distance to be agreed on a case-by-case basis and before the submission of the Plan under sub-paragraph (1) is submitted where the diameter of the pipe exceeds 400 millimetres.

Groundwater abstraction points and source protection zones (1 and 2)

Source Protection Zones

It is noted that the scoping report identifies a significant number of surface water receptors throughout the Study Area including Main Rivers, ordinary watercourses and field drainage channels associated with the Humber Estuary, River Trent and their tributaries, including Skitter Beck, the River Ancholme, the River Eau, the River Till and the Foss Dyke, as well as Internal Drainage Board (IDB) maintained watercourses and ditches (Chapter 15 - Para 15.5.33). The report identifies highly sensitive groundwater receptors mapped to Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ1–SPZ3), reflecting AWS public water supply abstractions (Chapter 15 - Para 15.5.34) in sections A and B of the project. Sections C and D are identified as less sensitive with localised SPZ coverage.

The Northen proposed route options around North Killingworth, Stallingborough and to the North of Kirmington are partially within SPZ1 and pass through SPZ2 and SPZ3. AWS has abstraction points, at Stallingborough and Habrough within the red line boundary and Croxton and Healing sitting just outside. AWS welcome the comments within table 7.13 that all subsurface infrastructure will be designed to minimise disruption to existing subsurface flow pathways to avoid any localised increases in groundwater flooding risk and changes to the availability of water resources.

AWS would expect groundwater protection measures to be implemented to protect principal aquifers used for drinking water abstraction - particularly within SPZs 1 and 2 using hydrogeological risk assessments to ascertain the risk to controlled waters (groundwater) in these areas. AWS would request to be further consulted, ideally via stakeholder liaison meetings, once route options and proposals are fully understood. It is not considered that risk to groundwater should be scoped out at this stage, given the proposed pipeline route option through SPZs 1 and 2.

Any proposed dewatering activities should be addressed through the Environment Agency's National Permitting Service, in terms of granting licenses, while ensuring sufficiency of groundwater resources for abstractors and the environment.

Ground Conditions and Land Contamination

There are Anglian Water groundwater abstraction points and their corresponding source protection zones (both 1 and 2) as detailed above. AWS acknowledge that the scoping report identifies in Chapter 7 Para 7.5.21, that water is abstracted for public water supply from within SPZ1 to the northeast and south of Immingham, and to the southwest of Haborough. We would therefore have concerns on any construction works or operation of the scheme that would adversely impact on these zones and water quality and would welcome further discussion on these matters.

AWS therefore would therefore expect impacts and mitigation measures to be identified and implemented within the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to ensure AWS assets are not adversely affected in terms of quality or quantity or structural integrity by the proposed development. This should include measures to mitigate effects from spills from the storage of fuel, chemicals and materials, and mobilisation of existing ground contamination. AWS would seek to ensure that appropriate measures are included to reduce risk of contamination that may impact abstraction for public water supply and minimise risk of damaging our water supply and sewerage assets which may present pollution risks to the local environment. We request further information

regarding proposed groundworks, in particular deep excavations near AWS assets, for our review and that a meeting take place to discuss.

Subsequently, AWS may need to be a consultee set out in the Requirements of the DCO for the approval of detailed management plans covering these aspects.

Water Management

Anglian Water seeks clarification on the following matters:

- If water recycling/ sewerage services are required from Anglian Water (all stages).
- If a water supply is required (all stages).
- Whether the management of surface water will require a public sewer connection.

Anglian Water requests that these points are fully assessed and confirmed in the EIA. Further advice is provided below.

Water recycling/ sewerage services

AWS would seek to understand how wastewater from the project including during construction; hydrostatic testing; ongoing operation and de-commissioning are intended to be managed. As part of a drainage strategy, details of how wastewater is intended to be disposed of, such as a connection to an available public sewer, will need to be confirmed at all project stages within the EIA. The Scoping Report does not detail if there would be a need for a permanent foul drainage solution for any of the proposed HAGIs. As such, AWS also seek to understand the requirement of any HAGI site operations, options may include connecting to the nearest available public sewer or a self-contained independent non-mains domestic storage and/or treatment system.

We would suggest that this is confirmed at an early stage, or that a pre-application is made to request a connection through our InFlow | Development Services platform, so that connections can be appropriately planned for.

Water Resources and Water Supply

The project is located within the four Water Resource Zones (WRZ) of Lincolnshire East; Lincolnshire Central; South Humber Bank; Lincolnshire Retford & Gainsborough. The Anglian Water region is identified as 'seriously water stressed' in the Environment Agency's 2021 classification of water stressed areas. AWS notes the requirement of water supply for the construction and hydrostatic testing of the pipeline. One specific point for the Environmental Statement (ES) therefore and in view of the potential impacts on water resources, is that the applicant is advised to consider the published Water Resources East Regional Plan Regional Plan which sets out the collective water companies position in the East of England.

The Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) for AWS is available on our website and we would advise these documents are referenced in Bibliography/ References EIA as a data source listed.

As water will be used in the project, impacts of climate change in terms of water availability for the construction, operation and decommissioning stages are also of relevance.

There is a need to ensure that any development proposals do not have an adverse effect on any existing boreholes which are used to supply the public with drinking water. The EIA will need to consider water resources and water efficiency through the preparation of a Water Resources Assessment (WRA). Anglian Water recommends that the WRA is an integral part of the chapter on Water Environment.

For applications under the 2008 Act, the WRA (or its summary) should form part of the EIA sufficient to enable regulators including the Environment Agency to advise the Examining Authority and the Secretary of State that the supply of water to the project is deliverable and sustainable. A WRA would include setting out a daily demand for each stage of the project and whether this is for domestic or non-domestic uses. Anglian Water recommends that the WRA is an integral part of the EIA.

The project should not assume that water will be available for construction and operation. If that water supply is not available from Anglian Water, then alternative supplies through local abstraction may cause environmental harm and so not be consented by the Environment Agency. The construction of alternative water supplies may themselves generate Green House Gases (GHG).

Anglian Water has a statutory duty to supply water for domestic purposes. This means we are legally obliged to supply water to all household properties as well as any domestic requirements (e.g., drinking water, hand-basins, toilets and showers) of non-household properties. In many cases, domestic demand will be the only requirement for non-household properties (e.g., schools, hospitals, offices, shops and hairdressers). Non-domestic demand refers to water use for industrial processes, (e.g., agri-food production or car washes), and there is no legal requirement for us to supply for this type of water usage where it might put at risk our ability to supply water for domestic purposes.

Although Anglian Water does not have a statutory obligation to supply for non-domestic purposes in these circumstances, we factor this into our WRMP and we do everything we can to support businesses in the region, with the help of the water retail market.

Anglian Water has adopted a Non-domestic demand December 2024' (copy attached) which states that requests over 20m3/day will be declined. However, for NSIPs that are requesting over 20m^3/day of non-domestic water (as defined above) for a scheme, a Water Resources Assessment (WRA) form must be completed Water Resource Assessment (NSIPS and SDOs) - template Feb 2025 FINAL.docx. This is so we can better understand water demands, water efficiency measures and more effectively forecast water supply requirements. This will help enable us to support projects that help achieve national ambitions such as achieving net zero carbon and unlocking sustainable growth.

Our new position on non-household supply is due to our joint aim with the Environment Agency of reducing abstraction to protect sensitive environments. Anglian Water now advise that new non-household water supply requests (construction and operational phases) may be declined as these could compromise our regulatory priority of supplying existing and planned domestic growth.

The flows needed to fill water storage tanks for example (if rainwater harvesting on site is not used to meet non-potable demand) will need to be assessed by Anglian Water to advise whether a supply is feasible, when assessed in terms of the potential to jeopardise domestic supply or at a significant financial or environmental cost.

Anglian Water recommends that new water supply connections are not sought during construction and that potable water supply for welfare facilities, for example, are served by tanker to reduce the embedded (capital) carbon from providing new connections. The Applicant should confirm that there will be no temporary concrete batching facilities with consequent water demands and would be offsite and so not require an on-site supply. Water requirements for firefighting measures and construction traffic (dust suppression/ wheel washing areas) should also be explained.

We would advise you to contact planningliaison@anglianwater.co.uk to discuss the need for water and wastewater connections. The team can take you through the Inflow registration process InFlow | Development Services, the need to submit a pre-planning enquiry request and the requirement to complete a WRA form which will also need to be included in the EIA. This should set out a daily demand for each stage of the project and whether this is for domestic or non-domestic uses. A copy of our WRA template is attached.

Flooding and Surface Water Drainage

AWS is responsible for management of the risks of flooding from surface water which are directed to foul water or combined water sewer systems and welcomes the completion of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment, and a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) to inform the impacts in the Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood risk associated with the project.

Our advice on surface water management is available here: aws-surface-water-guide-sm.pdf Potential embedded design measures should include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to be utilised at permanent above ground installations to manage rainfall run-off and achieve sufficient attenuation to avoid increases in flood risk, and compensation flood storage at temporary site compounds to manage flood risk at these locations.

AWS will not accommodate any surface water run-off into a foul sewer, and only to a combined sewer in exceptional circumstances. Our preference would be for surface water run-off from above ground permanent buildings and impermeable surfacing to be managed by SuDS with any outfall to a watercourse, in accordance with the drainage hierarchy.

The FRA should consider any increased risk of surface water and groundwater flood risks arising from the scheme that could exacerbate sewer flooding risks due to infiltration/ingress to our networks. The likelihood of more extreme weather events leading to higher-than-average rainfall and cumulative impacts of storm events, as recently experienced during Winter 2023/24, mean that infrastructure becomes increasingly vulnerable to flood risk. The project should aim to minimise any flood risks as far as possible by designing in measures to limit increased flood risks to utilities infrastructure.

Flooding from other sources should include reference to AWS infrastructure and further detail provided regarding potential temporary effects on flood risk from third party infrastructure works during construction of the project should be provided in the FRA, given the interfaces between the project and AWS assets. These interfaces will also be managed through the Protective Provisions and agreed construction practices.

Subject to confirmation that all surface water will be managed following the drainage hierarchy, including SuDS, AWS would want to clarify that the DCO as proposed will have no connection to the public sewer network for construction or for operations. This would then negate the need for the draft DCO Order to provide for any connection and so require consequent Protective Provisions and Requirements to ensure any connections did not compromise the wastewater services of existing customers.

We consider that SuDS and the potential for rainwater harvesting to serve any non-potable water requirements, should be used. Notwithstanding the lead roles of the Lead Local Flood Authority, the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Boards, AWS would welcome clarification on how consequent impacts on the local drainage/ sewerage network will be designed as part of the scheme. AWS will be a consultee set out in Requirements for the approval of drainage strategies and surface water management plans.

We would encourage any pre-planning enquiries are made through our InFlow platform to ascertain the most appropriate solution is taken forward.

Scope of Environmental Impacts and Effects

Whilst most of the land within the draft order limits is agricultural there are interfaces with some of our water and sewer pipes that operate under pressure. The Scoping Report identifies sources of flooding in terms of fluvial flooding events, storm events, and damage to utilities, but does not identify flooding from other sources such as sewer flooding. However, further detail regarding potential temporary effects on flood risk from third party infrastructure works during construction of the project should be provided in the Flood Risk Assessment; given the interfaces between the project and AWS assets.

These interfaces should be managed through the Protective Provisions for Anglian Water and agreed construction practices in the CEMP. Horizontal direct drilling (HDD) will need to take account of rising mains (pressurised sewer) to avoid pollution risk to protected habitats (Section 2.7 Construction of the Project).

Approach to Cumulative Effects

AWS welcomes the use of a Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) as part of the EIA process to assess the inter relationships and cumulative effects of the project with other developments on the same single receptor or resource. AWS recognises that cumulative schemes are generally based on existing and/or approved development, given that the information is readily available from local authority planning registers or the Planning Inspectorate website. It is not clear whether projects in early stages of development that are brought to the attention of the Applicant and have the potential to interact in a cumulative manner, will be considered. AWS is also the Applicant for the Lincolnshire Reservoir,

which would be an NSIP relevant for identification on the long list (as part of the CEA) when establishing appropriate spatial and temporal limits and considering the Zone of Influence for each of the environmental factors.

Management Plans

The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to be prepared as referenced under Chapter 5 para 5.581 of the scoping report, should include mitigation measures required to safeguard and remove the risk of damage to AWS's assets, both below ground and above, from plant and machinery interference (compaction and vibration during the construction phase) including haul and access roads. The impact of traffic vibration on underground water/sewer mains is not identified sufficiently. This is mainly a risk where the depth of soil covering our assets has been reduced due to the construction of temporary construction compounds, bellmouths and haul roads used by construction traffic. We would seek appropriate mitigation measures to be addressed in the various construction, traffic and noise/ vibration management plans to avoid any adverse impacts arising from construction traffic vibration on the operation of our assets.

Further advice on minimising and then relocating (where feasible) AWS existing assets can be obtained from: connections@anglianwater.co.uk

Major accidents and disasters:

AWS welcomes Chapter 15 which addresses the likely significant (LSE) of Major Accidents and Disasters. AWS identifies that the site is crossed by several utilities, including easement and separation distances required to be maintained. AWS would welcome specific reference on how the interfaces with utility assets such as sewers and water supply within the Order Limits will be managed through the construction of haul roads, bellmouths etc. Whilst Protective Provisions should address those interfaces with our assets, we would welcome further discussion with the applicant regarding such matters and their inclusion in the final versions of the DCO documents.

These documents should include steps to remove the risk of damage to our assets from plant and machinery (compaction and vibration during the construction phase) including any haul and access roads and crossings. AWS would seek to safeguard 24 hours /7-day access to our assets, and this is not compromised. We would, therefore, welcome further discussion with the applicant regarding such matters and their inclusion in the finalised documents. The intention for the Applicant to engage with AWS in relation to AWS assets is welcomed however we consider that until the clash assessment has been undertaken by AWS then likelihood and magnitude impacts cannot be assessed and so it is not possible to scope out these impacts from the EIA.

Engagement and Next Steps

As a statutory consultee and the water and sewerage undertaker for the area defined by the scoping boundary. Chapter 7 refers to the consultation discussions that have already taken place with the Environment Agency and Local Planning Authorities in terms of Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk and details further intended consultees for the pre application stages of development. AWS would welcome structured engagement with the Applicant throughout the forthcoming stages of the project can take place to address and resolve issues prior to the submission of the DCO, including Protective Provisions, in line with the requirements of the 2008 Planning Act and guidance.

Experience has shown that early engagement and then agreement is required between NSIP applicants and statutory undertakers during design and assessment and well before submission of the draft DCO for examination.

Consultation at the statutory PEIR stage would in our view be too late to inform design and may result in objections and delays to the project, including potential requests to change the project 's Order Limits, to ensure services to existing customers and future growth are not prejudiced. The preparation of a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) should document key issues and the status of whether issues have been resolved or remain under discussion, which helps to reduce the Examining Authority questions for statutory undertakers and removes the possible need for changes to the project during Examination.

AWS will seek to engage further with the Applicant through the forthcoming phases to discuss, amongst other matters:

- Impact of the development on AWS water supply, treatment and recycling assets.
- The design of the project to minimise interaction with AWS existing and planned assets/ critical infrastructure and specifically to avoid the need for mitigation works and diversions which have associated carbon costs.
- Requirement for potable and raw water supplies (if any) and the inclusion of the WRA in the EIA.
- Requirement for water recycling connections (if any).
- Confirmation of the project cumulative impacts with AWS projects, including the Lincolnshire Reservoir project and Strategic Pipeline, and the need for further engagement on these matters.
- Confirmation on the appropriate design/ mitigation of proposed works in the vicinity of groundwater abstraction points and corresponding source protection zones (1 and 2).
- Draft Protective Provisions and Requirements.
- The preparation of a draft SoCG prior to submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on these aspects so they can be progressed during the pre-application to decision stages of the project, or should you require clarification on the above response.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Strategic and Spatial Planning Lead – Sustainable Growth

Anglian Water's Non-Domestic Water Requests Policy
December 2024

1.0 Executive Summary

The East of England is the driest part of the country and climate change is making summers hotter and drier. To help protect the environment, the Environment Agency (EA) is reviewing abstraction licences and reducing the amount of water that businesses including Anglian Water can abstract from the environment. As a result, **the gap between the demand for water and our supply (aka headroom) has shrunk.**

This situation is reducing our ability to be flexible with new requests to supply non-domestic connections which were not planned for in the Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP).

To respond to both this challenge, and a growing population, Anglian Water is building a new strategic pipeline to move water around our region. We have also developed plans to build two new reservoirs to increase water supply. These solutions will take time to deliver, and so it is more crucial than ever that all homes and businesses are water efficient, to reduce the overall demand for water, to meet government targets and to ensure there is enough water to go around.

2.0 Background

2.1 Anglian Water

Anglian Water serves 20% of the total landmass of England and Wales and covers the largest geographical area of any water company. The Anglian Water region is the driest area in the country, receiving around two thirds of the average national rainfall. The population in the East of England has increased by 8.3% between 2011-2021, according to census data, which is the highest rate of growth in the UK. At Anglian Water we are committed to catering for this population growth and subsequently enabling growth in the economy. Agriculture and agri-food processing are vital industries in the East of England and require high volumes of water.

2.2 The EA's Abstraction Reduction Strategy

Water abstraction from the environment provides essential water for public water supply, agriculture and industry. However, unsustainable levels of abstraction impact the ecology and resilience of our rivers, wetlands and aquifers. Having the right flow in our rivers and protecting groundwater levels is essential to supporting healthy ecology, enhancing natural resilience to drought, and ensuring that rivers continue to support recreation and wellbeing. The Environment Agency (EA)'s abstraction reduction strategy is therefore essential for the health of our environment, but it does present some challenges for both ourselves and other businesses, especially as changes have been made to the EA's approach since we developed our last long term water resources management plan.
We also had three public water supply groundwater licences which required closure by June 2024. A further two public water supply groundwater sources have been identified at potential risk of closure by 2030. This, as well as the other pressures on our water supply, adds even greater pressure to the gap between demand for water and our ability to supply.

2.3 Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs)

Every 5 years water companies create a WRMP which sets out how water companies intend to achieve a secure supply of water for customers and a protected and enhanced environment. This includes consideration of which abstraction licences are being reduced or removed and predictions for requirements from new homes and businesses. There have always been requests for new or increased water connections after the WRMP has been drafted and we build in an element of flexibility into the plan for unforeseen changes. However, due to the changes in the EA's abstraction reduction strategy the number of requests received by Anglian Water for non-domestic connections has increased in the last year as business are also having their licences reduced or revoked, or simply cannot access any other source of water. At the same time we have seen new requests related to the 'onshoring' of production following Brexit and other supply chain issues, as well as new demands relating to net zero ambitions.

3.0 How can Anglian Water Help?

Anglian Water has a statutory duty to supply water for domestic purposes. This means we are legally obliged to supply water to all household properties as well as any domestic requirements (e.g., drinking water, hand-basins, toilets and showers) of non-household properties. In many cases, domestic demand will be the only requirement for non-household properties (e.g., schools, hospitals, offices, shops and hairdressers). Non-domestic demand refers to water use for industrial processes, (e.g., agri-food production or car washes), and there is no legal requirement for us to supply for this type of water usage where it might put at risk our ability to supply water for domestic purposes.

Although Anglian Water do not have a statutory obligation to supply water for non-domestic purposes, we factor this into our WRMP and we do everything we can to support businesses in the region, with the help of the water retail market. However, as described above, the situation is now changing, due to water supply being squeezed by abstraction reduction, climate change and a fast-growing population. Therefore, where new and unplanned non-domestic requests are received, which exceed 20,000 litres per day (0.020 Ml/d) (this may be less, dependent on the availability of water in that area) AW will need to decline the request for more water, in order to protect existing supplies and the environment.

4.0 What can your water retailer do to help?

The water retailer is the main point of contact for any water related issues or advice a business might need. We would always advise businesses contact them first and foremost to discuss water supply. Water retailers can provide information, including on how to become more water efficient and make the water you already have go further.

5.0 What can businesses do to help?

The cheapest and most sustainable solution to the region's water resource problem is to collectively reduce our water consumption. Water efficiency measures can be an extremely effective way to free up water resources for business expansion or new connections. Anglian Water have an ambitious smart metering roll out programme across the region for all homes

and businesses which help customers change their behaviour and become more water efficient. For our largest business customers, we offer smart meter data down to 15-minute intervals.

Water efficiency audits should be undertaken before new water supplies are requested. This could include installing water efficient devices (e.g., aerated taps and shower heads, low flush or air flush toilets) and efficient white goods (e.g., dishwashers and washing machines). Water demand can also be reduced through fitting smart meters, which measure water usage and provide regular readings, helping to identify leaks and tracking water consumption. Meters can also help support and encourage behavioural change.

In many cases, water reuse can also be a good option for reducing demand for water. Water reuse generally refers to the capture, treatment (if required) and use of alternative water supplies for non-potable purposes. It includes rainwater and surface water harvesting, greywater recycling and wastewater recycling. Water reuse technologies have the potential to save significant amounts of water, especially in situations where non potable water could be used in production.

6.0 What we need from government?

There are several things Anglian Water is calling on the government to do to help address this challenge and protect water resources:

1. Include every sector in a national campaign to reach the 20% water demand reduction target published in the Environment Act 2021.

2. Introduce a mandatory water efficiency labelling system for water using products, similar to the scheme already in place for energy using products.

3. Tighten building regulations and enforcement so that new homes are built to ambitious water efficient standards, as set out in the government's EIP (Environment Improvement Plan) 2023.

4. Make a commitment to link water efficiency with existing and new energy efficiency policies and retrofitting programmes.

5. Recognise the need to create new headroom to enable non-domestic growth.

6. Support us in delivering large scale strategic water resources options (for example, Anglian Water's two new reservoirs and new pipelines).

Water Resource Assessment

The need for a Water Resource Assessment

Anglian Water is committed to supporting sustainable economic growth across the East of England. However, due to the impacts of climate change and to help protect the environment, the amount of water that businesses, including Anglian Water, can abstract is reducing. This situation is reducing our ability to be flexible with new requests to supply non-domestic connections which were not planned for in the Water Resources Management Plan 2025-2050 (WRMP24).

Whilst Anglian Water are taking steps to respond to this challenge with the construction of two new reservoirs and strategic pipeline transfers, these will take time to deliver. As such it is more crucial than ever that we work together with businesses, to ensure we are aware of their water demands for growth, and that demand management and water efficiency solutions are implemented to maximise what water is available.

Whilst Anglian Water has a statutory duty to supply water for domestic purposes (e.g., drinking water, hand-basins, toilets and showers) for non-household properties (e.g., schools, hospitals, offices, shops and hairdressers), there is no legal duty to provide water for non-domestic usage (e.g., agri-food production or car washes) where it might put at risk our ability to supply water for domestic purposes. When a site is designated as an NSIP or SDO, we will do our utmost to provide the water required for your project. However, this is subject to a director level review within Anglian Water and can take some time to approve. In some instances, even NSIPS and SDOs may ultimately be refused their requested non-domestic water request.

Anglian Water has adopted a 'Non-Domestic Water Requests Policy' which states that requests over 20m3/day will be declined. However, for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects that are requesting over 20m^3/day of non-domestic water (as defined above) for a scheme, a Water Resource Assessment must be completed. This is so we can better understand water demands, water efficiency measures and more effectively forecast water supply requirements. This will help enable us to support projects that help achieve national ambitions such as achieving net zero carbon and unlocking sustainable growth.

Water Resource Assessment (WRA)

We advise that the WRA is used to inform the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report at the Statutory Consultation stage of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process and the Environmental Statement at submission. This will include engagement with environmental regulators. The WRA will also need to be submitted to Anglian Water's pre-planning team also, so that the request for non-domestic water can be considered further. To guide this, we have set out below the information we expect to be included.

1. Contact and project details

Applicant name	
Applicant address	
Applicant contact name	

Applicant contact email	
Applicant contact phone number	

Agent name (if applicable)	
Agent address	
Agent contact name	
Agent contact email	
Agent contact phone number	

Retailer name (if applicable)	
Retailer address	
Retailer contact name	
Retailer contact email	
Retailer contact phone number	
Water SPID	
Sewerage SPID	
Trade Effluent DPID	

Site address/location details	
Site contact name	
Site contact role	
Site contact email	
Site contact phone number	

Site type / usage	
Hours of production	
Days of production	
Peak production period	
When will your connection be required	
Number of full-time employees on site	
Number of jobs supported by new/additional supply and discharge request	
Financial investment linked to request	
Project planning route and status - please provide details and timeframe	

2. Existing site supply and discharge (if applicable)

Non-domestic water demand	
Mains (potable) water consumption	
Annual water consumption (m^3/year)	
Average daily water demand (m^3/day)	
Peak daily water demand (m^3/day)	
Peak hourly water demand (m^3/hour)	
Borehole water consumption	
Annual water consumption (m^3/year)	
Average daily water demand (m^3/day)	
Peak daily water demand (m^3/day)	
Borehole licence reference (please attach)	
Other water consumption (specify source)	
Annual water consumption (m^3/year)	
Average daily water demand (m^3/day)	
Peak daily water demand (m^3/day)	
Anglian Water/site water connection location (Grid ref)	
Meter Serial Number and size	
Site water supply internal and external pipe diameters	
Site water supply pipe length to first point of use	
On-site water storage volume	
Effective water storage volume (m^3)	
Height above ground level of inlet to storage	
Storage inlet control device (ball-valve, motorised valve, etc)	
Percentage of process supplied by on-site water storage	

Trade effluent	
Total trade effluent volume (m^3/year)	
Average daily trade effluent discharge (m^3/day)	
Peak daily trade effluent discharge (m^3/day)	
Trade effluent consent reference (if applicable)	
Trade effluent connection location (Grid ref)	
Trade effluent treatment plant description	
Trade effluent composition	

3. New (or additional needs) site supply and discharge requirements

This should include any temporary non-domestic water uses for construction.

Water demand

Quantity of water requested for domestic purposes (m^3/day)	
Quantity of water requested for non-domestic (process) purposes (m^3/day)	
Any water required for the purposes of firefighting	
Quality of water required i.e. potable or non-potable	
Average daily demand (m^3/day)	
Peak daily demand (i.e. the highest volume we might have to supply in a day in m^3/day)	
Diurnal and annual profile (m^3)	
Timescales to require the water, including any 'ramping up' to the full volumes e.g. construction needs and timescales	
Trade effluent	
Total trade effluent volume (including existing if appropriate) (m^3/year)	
Average trade effluent volume (including existing if appropriate) (m^3/day)	
Peak trade effluent volume (including existing if appropriate) (m^3/day)	
Project planning route and status – please provide details and timeframe	

4. Water efficiency measures

As set out above, and in Anglian Water's Non-Domestic Water Requests Policy, there is a need to make best use of what water is available across the region, through implementation of water efficiency measures. We expect evidence of high levels of water efficiencies that you are considering implementing as part of your development and processes.

Potential ideas and solutions that we would want evidence on include:

- Maximisation of existing onsite resources (e.g. own borehole)
- Consideration of non-water based or close-loop cooling systems
- Capture and reuse of water from water-based cooling systems e.g. blowdown
- Sharing of resources with neighbouring facilities, considering all water-based resources such as steam, water/effluent reuse, rainwater harvesting
- Specification of highly rated white goods
- Sub-metering on site
- Evidence of water audit systems
- Infrastructure or systems that could manage the timing of water take e.g. onsite storage and control system, production flexibility
- Onsite measures to improve the water environment e.g. wetland

Please set out below what steps you have undertaken or will implement to ensure your processes (including during construction phases), and development are as water efficient as possible:

XXXXXX DCO PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS – SCHEDULE XXXXX: FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANGLIAN WATER SERVICES LIMITED

Application

79. For the protection of Anglian Water the following provisions have effect, unless otherwise agreed in writing between the undertaker and Anglian Water.

Interpretation

80. In this Part of this Schedule—

"1991 Act" means the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991;

"alternative apparatus" means alternative apparatus adequate to enable Anglian Water to fulfil its statutory functions in a manner no less efficient than previously;

"Anglian Water" means Anglian Water Services Limited;

"apparatus" means:

(a) works, mains, pipes or other apparatus belonging to or maintained by Anglian Water for the purposes of water supply and sewerage;

(b) any drain or works vested in Anglian Water under the Water Industry Act 1991;

(c) any sewer which is so vested or is the subject of a notice of intention to adopt given under section 102(4) of that Act or an agreement to adopt made under section 104 of that Act,

(d) any drainage system constructed for the purpose of reducing the volume of surface water entering any public sewer belonging to Anglian Water,

and

(e) includes a sludge main, disposal main or sewer outfall and any manholes, ventilating shafts, pumps or other accessories forming part of any such sewer, drain or works, and includes any structure in which apparatus is or is to be lodged or which gives or will give access to apparatus;

and for the purpose of this definition, where words are defined by section 219 of that Act, they shall be taken to have the same meaning

"functions" includes powers and duties;

"in", in a context referring to apparatus or alternative apparatus in land, includes a reference to apparatus or alternative apparatus under, over or upon land;

"plan" includes all designs, drawings, specifications, method statements, soil reports, programmes, calculations, risk assessments and other documents that are reasonably necessary properly and sufficiently to describe the works to be executed;

~~**On street apparatus**~~

~~81. This Part of this Schedule does not apply to apparatus in respect of which the relations between the undertaker and Anglian Water are regulated by the provisions of Part 3 of the 1991 Act.~~ *[only for use where the undertaker has powers under part 3 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991]*

Apparatus in stopped up streets

82.—(1) Where any street is stopped up under article 18 (permanent stopping up and restriction of use of streets and private means of access), where Anglian Water has apparatus in the street or accessed by virtue of that street, it has the same powers and rights in respect of that apparatus as it enjoyed immediately before the stopping up and the undertaker must grant to Anglian Water legal easements reasonably satisfactory to Anglian Water in respect of such apparatus and access to it, but nothing in this paragraph affects any right of the undertaker or of Anglian Water to require the removal of that apparatus under paragraph 85 or the power of the undertaker to carry out works under paragraph 87.

(2) Regardless of the temporary stopping up or diversion of any highway under the powers conferred by article 17 (temporary alteration, diversion, prohibition and restriction of the use of streets), Anglian Water is at liberty at all times to take all necessary access across any such stopped up highway and to execute and do all such works and things in, upon or under any such highway as may be reasonably necessary or desirable to enable it to maintain any apparatus which at the time of the stopping up or diversion was in that highway.

Protective works to buildings

83. The undertaker, in the case of the powers conferred by article 22 (protective work to buildings), must exercise those powers so as not to obstruct or render less convenient the access to any apparatus.

Acquisition of land

84. Regardless of any provision in this Order or anything shown on the land plans, the undertaker must not acquire any apparatus otherwise than by agreement.

Removal of apparatus

85.—(1) If, in the exercise of the powers conferred by this Order, the undertaker acquires any interest in any land in which any apparatus is placed or requires that Anglian Water's apparatus is relocated or diverted, that apparatus must not be removed under this Part of this Schedule, and any right of Anglian Water to maintain that apparatus in that land must not be extinguished, until

(a) alternative apparatus has been constructed and is in operation to the reasonable satisfaction of Anglian Water in accordance with sub-paragraphs (2) to (8); and

(b) facilities and rights have been secured for that alternative apparatus in accordance with paragraph 86.

(2) If, for the purpose of executing any works in, on or under any land purchased, held, appropriated or used under this Order, the undertaker requires the removal of any apparatus placed in that land, the undertaker must give to Anglian Water 28 days' written notice of that requirement, together with a plan of the work proposed, and of the proposed position of the alternative apparatus to be provided or constructed and in that case (or if in consequence of the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this Order an undertaker reasonably needs to remove any of its apparatus) the undertaker must, subject to sub-paragraph (3), afford to Anglian Water the necessary facilities and rights for the construction of alternative apparatus in other land of the undertaker and subsequently for the maintenance of that apparatus.

(3) If alternative apparatus or any part of such apparatus is to be constructed elsewhere than in other land of the undertaker, or the undertaker is unable to afford such facilities and rights as are mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) in the land in which the alternative apparatus or part of such

apparatus is to be constructed Anglian Water must, on receipt of a written notice to that effect from the undertaker, as soon as reasonably possible use its best endeavours to obtain the necessary facilities and rights in the land in which the alternative apparatus is to be constructed.

(4) Any alternative apparatus to be constructed in land of the undertaker under this Part of this Schedule must be constructed in such manner and in such line or situation as may be agreed between Anglian Water and the undertaker or in default of agreement settled by arbitration in accordance with article 54 (arbitration).

(5) Anglian Water must, after the alternative apparatus to be provided or constructed has been agreed or settled by arbitration in accordance with article 54, and after the grant to Anglian Water of any such facilities and rights as are referred to in sub-paragraphs (2) or (3), proceed without unnecessary delay to construct and bring into operation the alternative apparatus and subsequently to remove any apparatus required by the undertaker to be removed under the provisions of this Part of this Schedule.

(6) Regardless of anything in sub-paragraph (5), if Anglian Water gives notice in writing to the undertaker that it desires the undertaker to execute any work, or part of any work in connection with the construction or removal of apparatus in any land of the undertaker or to the extent that Anglian Water fails to proceed with that work in accordance with sub-paragraph (5) or the undertaker and Anglian Water otherwise agree, that work, instead of being executed by Anglian Water, must be executed by the undertaker without unnecessary delay under the superintendence, if given, and to the reasonable satisfaction of Anglian Water.

(7) If Anglian Water fails either reasonably to approve, or to provide reasons for its failure to approve along with an indication of what would be required to make acceptable, any proposed details relating to required removal works under sub-paragraph (2) within 28 days of receiving a notice of the required works from the undertaker, then such details are deemed to have been approved. For the avoidance of doubt, any such “deemed consent” does not extend to the actual undertaking of the removal works, which shall remain the sole responsibility of Anglian Water or its contractors.

(8) Whenever alternative apparatus is to be or is being substituted for existing apparatus, the undertaker shall, before taking or requiring any further step in such substitution works, use best endeavours to comply with Anglian Water’s reasonable requests for a reasonable period of time to enable Anglian Water to:

(a) make network contingency arrangements; or

(b) bring such matters as it may consider reasonably necessary to the attention of end users of the utility in question.

Facilities and rights for alternative apparatus

86.—(1) Where, in accordance with the provisions of this Part of this Schedule, the undertaker affords to a utility undertaker facilities and rights for the construction and maintenance in land of the undertaker of alternative apparatus in substitution for apparatus to be removed, those facilities and rights are to be granted upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the undertaker and Anglian Water or in default of agreement settled by arbitration in accordance with article 54 (arbitration).

(2) If the facilities and rights to be afforded by the undertaker in respect of any alternative apparatus, and the terms and conditions subject to which those facilities and rights are to be granted, are in the opinion of the arbitrator less favourable on the whole to Anglian Water than the facilities and rights enjoyed by it in respect of the apparatus to be removed and the terms and conditions to which those facilities and rights are subject, the arbitrator must make such provision for the payment of compensation by the undertaker to Anglian Water as appears to the arbitrator to be reasonable having regard to all the circumstances of the particular case.

(3) Such facilities and rights as are set out in this paragraph are deemed to include any statutory permits granted to the undertaker in respect of the apparatus in question, whether under the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016 or other legislation.

Retained apparatus

87.—(1) Not less than 28 days before starting the execution of any works in, on or under any land purchased, held, appropriated or used under this Order that are near to, or will or may affect, any apparatus (or any means of access to it) the removal of which has not been required by the undertaker under paragraph 85(2), the undertaker must submit to Anglian Water a plan of the works to be executed.

(2) Those works must be executed only in accordance with the plan submitted under sub-paragraph (1) and in accordance with such reasonable requirements as may be made in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) by Anglian Water for the alteration or otherwise for the protection of the apparatus, or for securing access to it, and Anglian Water is entitled to watch and inspect the execution of those works.

(3) Any requirements made by Anglian Water under sub-paragraph (2) must be made within a period of 21 days beginning with the date on which a plan under sub-paragraph (1) is submitted to it.

(4) If Anglian Water in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) and in consequence of the works proposed by the undertaker, reasonably requires the removal of any apparatus and gives written notice to the undertaker of that requirement, paragraphs 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 apply as if the removal of the apparatus had been required by the undertaker under paragraph 85(2).

(5) Nothing in this paragraph precludes the undertaker from submitting at any time or from time to time, but in no case less than 28 days before commencing the execution of any works, a new plan instead of the plan previously submitted, and having done so the provisions of this paragraph apply to and in respect of the new plan.

(6) The undertaker is not required to comply with sub-paragraph (1) in a case of emergency but in that case must give to Anglian Water notice as soon as is reasonably practicable and a plan of those works as soon as reasonably practicable subsequently and must comply with sub-paragraph (3) in so far as is reasonably practicable in the circumstances, using its best endeavours to keep the impact of those emergency works on Anglian Water's apparatus, on the operation of its water and sewerage network and on end-users of the services Anglian Water provides to a minimum.

(7) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) and without prejudice to the generality of the principles set out in that sub-paragraph, works are deemed to be in land near Anglian Water's apparatus (where it is a pipe) if those works fall within the following distances measured from the medial line of such apparatus:

(a) 4 metres where the diameter of the pipe is less than 250 millimetres;

(b) 5 metres where the diameter of the pipe is between 250 and 400 millimetres, and

(c) a distance to be agreed on a case by case basis and before the submission of the Plan under sub-paragraph (1) is submitted where the diameter of the pipe exceeds 400 millimetres.

Expenses and costs

88.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, the undertaker must repay to Anglian Water all expenses reasonably incurred by Anglian Water in, or in connection with, the inspection, removal, alteration or protection of any apparatus or the construction of any new apparatus which may be required in consequence of the execution of any such works as are referred to in this Part of this Schedule.

(2) There must be deducted from any sum payable under subparagraph (1) the value of any apparatus removed under the provisions of this Part of this Schedule that value being calculated after removal.

(3) If in accordance with the provisions of this Part of this Schedule—

(a) apparatus of better type, of greater capacity or of greater dimensions is placed in substitution for existing apparatus of worse type, of smaller capacity or of smaller dimensions; or

(b) apparatus (whether existing apparatus or apparatus substituted for existing apparatus) is placed at a depth greater than the depth at which the existing apparatus was situated, and the placing of apparatus of that type or capacity or of those dimensions or the placing of apparatus at that depth, as the case may be, is not agreed by the undertaker or, in default of agreement, is not determined by arbitration in accordance with article 54 (arbitration) to be necessary, then, if such placing involves cost in the construction of works under this Part of this Schedule exceeding that which would have been involved if the apparatus placed had been of the existing type, capacity or dimensions, or at the existing depth, as the case may be, the amount which apart from this sub-paragraph would be payable to Anglian Water by virtue of subparagraph (1) must be reduced by the amount of that excess.

(4) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (3)—

(a) an extension of apparatus to a length greater than the length of existing apparatus is not to be treated as a placing of apparatus of greater dimensions than those of the existing apparatus; and

(b) where the provision of a joint in a pipe or cable is agreed, or is determined to be necessary, the consequential provision of a jointing chamber or of a manhole is to be treated as if it also had been agreed or had been so determined.

89.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3), if by reason or in consequence of the construction of any such works referred to in paragraphs 83 or 85(2), or by reason of any subsidence resulting from such development or works, any damage is caused to any apparatus or alternative apparatus (other than apparatus the repair of which is not reasonably necessary in view of its intended removal for the purposes of those works) or property of Anglian Water, or there is any interruption in any service provided, or in the supply of any goods, by Anglian Water, the undertaker must—

(a) bear and pay the cost reasonably incurred by Anglian Water in making good such damage or restoring the supply; and

(b) make reasonable compensation to Anglian Water for any other expenses, loss, damages, penalty or costs incurred by the undertaker,

by reason or in consequence of any such damage or interruption.

(2) The fact that any act or thing may have been done by Anglian Water on behalf of the undertaker or in accordance with a plan approved by Anglian Water or in accordance with any requirement of Anglian Water or under its supervision does not, subject to sub-paragraph (3), excuse the undertaker from liability under the provisions of sub-paragraph (1) unless Anglian Water fails to carry out and execute the works properly with due care and attention and in a skilful and professional like manner or in a manner that does not accord with the approved plan.

(3) Nothing in sub-paragraph (1) imposes any liability on the undertaker with respect to any damage or interruption to the extent that it is attributable to the unlawful or unreasonable act, neglect or default of Anglian Water, its officers, servants, contractors or agents.

(4) Anglian Water must give the undertaker reasonable notice of any such claim or demand and no settlement or compromise is to be made, without the consent of the undertaker (such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed) who, if withholding such consent, has the sole conduct of any settlement or compromise or of any proceedings necessary to resist the claim or demand.

Cooperation

90. Where in consequence of the proposed construction of any of the authorised development, the undertaker or Anglian Water requires the removal of apparatus under paragraph 85(2) or Anglian Water makes requirements for the protection or alteration of apparatus under paragraph 9, the undertaker must use all reasonable endeavours to co-ordinate the execution of the works in the interests of safety and the efficient and economic execution of the authorised development and taking into account the need to ensure the safe and efficient operation of Anglian Water's undertaking, using existing processes where requested by Anglian Water, provided it is appropriate to do so, and Anglian Water must use all reasonable endeavours to co-operate with the undertaker for that purpose.

91. Where the undertaker identifies any apparatus which may belong to or be maintainable by Anglian Water but which does not appear on any statutory map kept for the purpose by Anglian Water, it shall inform Anglian Water of the existence and location of the apparatus as soon as reasonably practicable.

92. Nothing in this Part of this Schedule affects the provisions of any enactment or agreement regulating the relations between the undertaker and Anglian Water in respect of any apparatus laid or erected in land belonging to the undertaker on the date on which this Order is made.

93. The undertaker and Anglian Water may by written agreement substitute any period of time for those periods set out in this Part of this Schedule.

[Note: the main provisions of the DCO may provide the undertaker with a right to connect to a public sewer. If so, although the connection may only be made with the consent of Anglian Water, such consent may not be unreasonably withheld. Disputes as to reasonableness are dealt with as disputes under section 106 of the Water Industry Act 1991 which preclude the issue of capacity being raised. Therefore, Anglian Water should be named as a consultee in respect of the drainage strategy that the development must follow, which will usually be found in the Schedule concerning "Requirements". This will put Anglian Water in the same position as it would be in connection with a non-DCO development seeking connection under section 106 above.]

From: [redacted]@bolsover.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 March 2026 10:16
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: EN0610001 - Consultation on ES scoping opinion for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire

> You don't often get email from [redacted]@bolsover.gov.uk. Learn why this is important

Good morning,

I can confirm that Bolsover District Council has no comments to make.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Principal Planner (Development Management)

Planning Department, Bolsover District Council

The Arc, High Street, Clowne, Chesterfield, S43 4JY

T: [redacted]

E: [redacted]@bolsover.gov.uk

www.bolsover.gov.uk

CLdN Ports Killingholme Limited
Haven House
Clough Lane
North Killingholme
North Lincolnshire
DN40 3JS

Environmental Services
Infrastructure Decisions
and Application Service
Planning Inspectorate
c/o Quadient
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

2 April 2026

Your ref: EN0610001

By e-mail: H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Scoping Consultation Response to Application by Cadent Gas Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (H2East H:N)

Thank you for your letter of 6 March 2026 to C.GEN Killingholme Limited concerning the scoping consultation.

I am writing on behalf of CLdN Ports Killingholme Limited in response to the scooping consultation letter as land identified within the pipeline corridor is earmarked for development as level storage associated with RoRo freight operations at the adjacent CLdN Ports Killingholme, under arrangements between us and C.GEN Killingholme Limited.

CLdN Ports Killingholme Limited and C.GEN Killingholme Limited are affiliated companies.

It is unclear from the scoping report submitted by the Applicant – or in its public consultation materials – what activities associated with its project are proposed for the land in which we have interest. It appears that the affected land may form part of the end of a pipeline corridor, which overlaps with C.GEN Killingholme's land.

The affected land is earmarked for development by us for additional level storage within the operational area of CLdN Ports Killingholme. This includes an extant planning permission, and an additional planning application which is due for submission in May 2026. As such it forms part of a nationally significant port facility, serving the UK's vital sea freight capacity.

Any use of this land by the project will have a material and adverse impact on the safe, efficient and effective operation of the port, which – if the Applicant pursues the use of the land identified – would need to be fully assessed within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment. As part of that process, it would need to adequately identify what activities or land use it proposes within the Environmental Statement. As this information is not currently available it is not possible for us to make substantive remarks on the Scoping Request, which in turn raises significant concerns that our response to the request is not as complete as it should be.

In any event, as noted above, the impacts of any use of port land must be assessed within the context of their impacts on the operation of the port, including the reduction in available storage land and interference with safe operations, port security, and other considerations including conflicts with terminal operations and regulatory requirements regarding temporary storage permits under our wharf approval.

Currently, within the Scoping Request, the affected land is not identified as part of the operational area of CLdN Ports Killingholme and for that reason the Scoping Request is silent on potential impacts on the port operation.

We are approaching the Project team to request additional information and engagement but for the time being as the port operation is not considered within the Scoping Request, we consider that it is deficient and the Applicant would need to approach us to obtain information in order to address the gaps in its proposed approach to assessment.

As a general point, the use, interruption and interference with port operations is not considered acceptable.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

Director
For and on behalf of C.GEN Killingholme Limited and CLdN Ports Killingholme Limited

Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Environmental Services
Infrastructure Decisions and Applications Service
Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

Your Ref: EN0610001

Our Ref: IPP-306

Thursday 2 April 2026

By email to H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Cadent Gas Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the proposed development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

Thank you for your consultation in the respect of the above.

The Canal & River Trust are the charity who look after and bring to life 2000 miles of canals & rivers. Our waterways contribute to the health and wellbeing of local communities and economies, creating attractive and connected places to live, work, volunteer and spend leisure time. These historic, natural and cultural assets form part of the strategic and local green-blue infrastructure network, linking urban and rural communities as well as habitats. By caring for our waterways and promoting their use we believe we can improve the wellbeing of our nation. The Trust is a prescribed consultee in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) process.

Having reviewed the location of the proposed project and the scoping report, we wish to make the following comments:

The Trust is navigation authority for the Fossdyke canal and the River Trent. We are also landowner of parts of the river and have absolute freehold interests in small land parcels next to the river, which could lie within the red lie boundary of the project boundary. The River Trent is classified as a freight waterway and can accommodate large craft.

The proposed project would require the installation of the hydrogen pipeline across our network, at Fossdyke canal, sited to the east of Drinsey Nook, and the River Trent, sited to the east of High Marnham.

As navigation authority of the waterways the Trust would wish to see any potential impacts on; our waterway users (boaters, towpath users and wildlife); infrastructure (the canal, river, culverts, towpaths, embankments etc); or the habitats that our waterway support; fully identified and addressed within the Environmental Statement (ES) and supporting application documents.

It is extremely important that our waterways and navigational safety both during construction and operation of the development are maintained. The proposed works, construction routes and construction compounds have the potential to impact on the waterway infrastructure.

The Scoping Report provides information on the likely nature and form of the proposed development and identifies areas of potential impacts. The Trust consider that it is necessary that the following matters should be considered within the ES. These are ordered to reflect the chapters within the Scoping Report.

Biodiversity

The Trust agree that ecology and biodiversity should be scoped into the ES. The waterways potentially support rich ecology and biodiversity, and the development could have an adverse impact on the ecology of the waterway. Water quality must be protected during and post works, with consideration given to protecting the wildlife corridors along and to the canal/river from, water pollution, air pollution and light pollution during construction and during the operation of the development. The potential impacts on the waterway corridor should be fully considered within the ES and should detail appropriate and proportionate mitigation.

The ES should consider the potential for sediment mobilisation from the canal/riverbed through the use of directional drilling methods (HDD) to install cable connections beneath the River Trent and Fossdyke canal. There will be a small risk of vibrations leading to sediment mobilisation, or the emission of pollutants, so this impact should be scoped in, with consideration given to the provision of field studies into invertebrates and fish species found in the water to assess the sensitivity of these species to potential sediment movement.

With regards to bats, waterway corridors often form dark havens for bats where they can forage and roost without disturbance from light, which should be protected. The existing trees and hedgerows within the corridor of works also play an important role for bat foraging and commuting as well as potentially for bat roosts. Bats would also be particularly sensitive to the lighting that might be provided within the scheme, especially during the construction phase. Regard would also need to be given to nesting birds and other protected species which may be present along the route, and all vegetation works should be outside of bird nesting season including preparations for HDD launch and exit pits.

An assessment of the presence of Invasive non-native species will be required on the finalised route corridors and measures must be in place to ensure there is no spread of them during construction or routine maintenance of the pipeline and associated infrastructure. Any invasive species found along the routes would also need to be considered and treated/remediated/removed accordingly to prevent them spreading, especially towards/into waterways where they could be further spread.

Given that affected hedgerows often fall within riparian zones, a comprehensive Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment will likely be required for all instances of vegetation removal. We recommend that landscape remediation works actively seek opportunities to align with Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) ambitions to enhance ecological outcomes. Furthermore, the project's approach to BNG should be closely monitored to ensure compliance with the emerging statutory requirements for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

In reference to Table 8.9 (Comm Lv-19), further clarification is requested as to why the introduction of new vegetation has not been proposed as a specific mitigation measure in this instance. There may be potential to consider compensatory planting along our waterways in the vicinity of the crossings, and regarding Comm Lv-21, it is recommended that the commitment be strengthened to include **both** the enhancement of existing hedgerows and the comprehensive replacement of any hedgerow lost during the works.

Historic Environment

Although the majority of the completed works would be underground, the Trust agree that cultural heritage should be scoped into the ES.

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The submitted documentation confirms that all relevant heritage constraints—including designated assets, Scheduled Monuments, conservation areas, Historic Environment Records (HERs), and archaeological sites—have been accurately accounted for through comprehensive mapping.

While the Fossdyke Navigation possesses Roman origins as a link between the River Witham and the River Trent, the original infrastructure suffered significant deterioration and was re-established in the 12th century under Henry I. Following subsequent periods of silting, a reliable, maintained navigation was finally secured in 1744. Despite its potential for archaeological interest, its overall significance in the context of canal engineering is considered low, given the scarcity of locks, tunnels, and associated structures. Currently, the navigation accommodates several overpassing pipes, which are either standalone features or integrated into existing bridge structures.

The methodology proposed in Section 6.1.4, which ensures that assets above, at, and below ground level are considered, is deemed appropriate. Consequently, a dedicated Historic Environment chapter will be prepared for the ES, supported by a comprehensive Desk-Based Archaeological Assessment. This is considered a suitable approach.

Regarding Table 6.10, the impacts of HAGIs, BVIs, and marker posts cannot be fully assessed until the final route and its associated infrastructure are confirmed. Any identified long-term impacts must be mitigated through a robust heritage justification, addressing both the necessity of their inclusion and the subsequent reduction in significance.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk

The route corridors could impact a number of watercourses and ditches which pass under our waterways via culverts, or in some instance may even discharge directly into the Fossdyke canal and/or River Trent. These would need to be located and protected to ensure the potential for silty waters or contaminants entering the waterways is mitigated. The River Tib flows upstream of the proposed crossing and functions as the primary feed for the Fossdyke canal; as such, it is essential to fully understand how the scheme may hydrologically affect this watercourse. Given that the surrounding land drainage networks likely interact with both the canal and the River Tib, a comprehensive assessment of these interactions is required to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are identified and agreed upon. This should include any temporary or permanent impact on flow patterns, to identity whether there will be any negative impact on the waterway.

The Trust requires that the ES provides comprehensive details regarding the management, treatment, and disposal of water, particularly in areas adjacent to waterway crossings. Specific focus must be placed on the dewatering of excavations and trenches to prevent the ingress of silt or contaminants into the waterways network. Furthermore, the developer must account for surface water run-off and discharge from construction compounds, ensuring that robust mitigation measures are in place to safeguard the water quality and ecological integrity of the waterways.

The Trust is not a land drainage authority and such discharges to our waterway are not granted as of right. Where they are granted, they will be subject to the completion of a commercial agreement.

Landscape and Visual Impact

The Trust agree that landscape and visual impacts should be scoped into the ES and we are agreeable with the outline spatial scope, temporal scope and data sources, as well as the methodology, LSE and scoped out elements.

The waterway and its users (boaters and towpath users) should be recognised as visual receptors with high sensitivity within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

The siting of the Hydrogen Above Ground Installations (HAGIs) and any other such above ground infrastructure in close proximity to the waterway corridors should be avoided, and where they cannot be avoided, mitigation should be provided to minimise the visual impact. The current design for HAGIs includes minimal screening vegetation. This represents a missed opportunity for meaningful landscape integration and the delivery of biodiversity benefits.

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While D-II is the only site in relative proximity to our network, its visual impact requires further scrutiny. However, given the flat topography and low-level nature of the construction, enhanced landscaping needs to sufficiently mitigate visual concerns. Clarification is requested on the permanence of these search areas and whether there is a likelihood that additional locations will be required if the current sites prove unfeasible.

There are potentially significant temporary effects during the construction and permanent visual effects to the area following completion which would affect the current character, tranquillity and experience of the waterways. It is understood that the intention is for the pipeline to be underground along its length, including underneath the Fossdyke canal and River Trent, the undergrounding of the pipe would help mitigate the long-term visual impact of the works. Each crossing (underground) of the waterways should be subject to careful individual assessment, consideration and mitigation appropriate to the character of the area. The proposed 50m working width presents the risk of significant visual impact both during and after construction. This is particularly concerning where the removal of established hedgerows and trees is required, and the assessment should reflect the long-term landscape alterations resulting from these losses. While Figure 2.6 indicates that Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) impacts will be set back from watercourses, it should be confirmed if this setback is achievable across all locations.

Alternative methods, such as auger boring or direct pipe, suggest that impacts may occur in closer proximity to watercourses. In the absence of a confirmed methodology, the assessment should adopt a 'worst-case scenario' regarding visual and on-site landscape impacts, specifically the loss of riparian vegetation and towpath hedgerows.

The impact of lighting (temporary and permanent) within the development site should also be considered as part of the LVIA. This should crosscut with the biodiversity chapter in terms of the impact on protected species and other waterway users which would be particularly susceptible to lighting.

The impact of any tree removal to facilitate the development would need to be assessed and mitigated accordingly.

It is important that visual impacts are assessed within the context of the canal and river being navigable waterways and that visual impacts do not result in any harm to navigational safety. It is positive that users of navigable waterways have been identified under visual receptors, however, this is only identified as 'recreational users.' Residential boats should also be included and carried through in all relevant contexts. Further advice on boating matters can be provided to inform further assessment if required.

Air Quality

The Trust agree that air quality should be scoped into the ES. The Fossdyke canal and River Trent should be identified as sensitive receptors particularly with regards to dust emissions during construction and the significant excavations that would be required. Mitigation measures should be set out to ensure that regular checks of the waterways are undertaken during construction and for a period following completion of the works. The waterway users should be identified as sensitive receptors that may be affected. It should be clarified that users of the waterway for recreation, boaters, both leisure users and residential, along with pedestrians and cyclists on the towpaths as well as wildlife are all sensitive receptors, especially during construction.

Noise and Vibration

The Trust agree that noise and vibration should be scoped into the ES. The waterway corridors are tranquil spaces and contribute to the health and wellbeing of the nearby residents and users (boaters, anglers, commuters, leisure and recreational users on the towpath). These spaces should be protected from intrusive forms of development and any potential impacts such as noise should be kept to a minimum. We ask that waterways and their users are included as noise sensitive receptors in the assessment. The proposal both during construction and future operation has the potential to impact on users of the waterway from noise and vibration. This includes boaters (both residential and leisure users) and recreational users along the riverbank and canal towpaths, as well as wildlife. We consider that boaters/waterway users/wildlife should be considered as specific receptors in terms of noise and mitigated accordingly.

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It is understood that the proposal is for Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) under the waterways, this technique would be required to have due regard to the vibration limits of the waterways, as set out within the Trusts Code of Practice. Therefore, in terms of vibration, it would be important that the structural integrity of the waterways is safeguarded. The undergrounding of the pipe under the waterways is welcome and is our preference. We would have significant concerns if the pipe crossings were to be above ground.

However, The Trust maintains that the proposed undergrounding of the pipeline would still present a significant risk to the structural integrity of the waterway infrastructure. It is imperative to acknowledge that the canal network was not constructed to modern engineering standards; consequently, these heritage assets are exceptionally susceptible to vibration-induced damage and ground movement. The ES must, therefore, provide a rigorous assessment of how such engineering works will be managed to prevent any compromise to the stability or water-retaining function of the canal.

At this stage, it is unclear how close construction traffic, plant and machinery would get to the waterway corridor, such activities also have the potential to impact the waterway infrastructure from surcharging or loading our assets. An appropriate buffer should be provided to the waterway where no plant, machinery or construction traffic should track, or indeed materials be stored. Any trees to be removed in the vicinity of the waterway or supporting infrastructure should include a methodology for removing trees and treating the roots to prevent shrinkage whilst ensuring that the integrity of the waterway is maintained and protected.

Section 2.7.3 notes that pipeline laying is scheduled primarily for the summer months; clarification is sought regarding whether this timeline carries specific implications (such as interruptions/temporary closures) for navigational safety or access.

Traffic and Transport

The Trust maintains that the proposed construction routes, which potentially intersect our waterway network, must be subject to a rigorous assessment within the ES. It is critical that the potential impacts on waterway infrastructure, specifically the accommodation bridges under the Trust's ownership, are fully evaluated.

Unlike public highway bridges, the Trust's legal obligation for maintaining accommodation bridges is typically limited to the original design capacity—often intended for historic uses such as horse-drawn carts. In the absence of subsequent strengthening, this equates to a modern maximum gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 3 tonnes. While these heritage structures may physically withstand higher loads, the Trust has no statutory requirement to maintain them to a higher standard. Consequently, the passage of vehicles exceeding this limit poses a substantial risk to the structural integrity of the waterway assets and the safety of all users.

Furthermore, to mitigate the pressure on sensitive road infrastructure and support sustainable development, the Trust strongly encourages the developer to explore the use of the waterway for construction freight. Utilising the waterway for the transport of materials and waste would significantly reduce the impact of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) on the local road and bridge network while aligning with carbon reduction objectives. We would be happy to provide further advice upon this.

Ground Conditions

Contamination and pollution would have a negative effect on the waterway corridors. We ask that any contaminated land assessment and especially any mitigation considers the Fossdyke canal and River Trent as sensitive receptors and are considered in any conceptual models.

The contamination assessments should consider the waterways as receptors as part of any assessment which would be susceptible to pollution. The location and sealing of any existing drainage across the development sites to the waterway should also be considered and addressed. Potential pollution of watercourses during construction would also need to be addressed

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The chapter should also consider ground conditions in terms of construction works in close proximity to the waterway infrastructure which could potentially adversely affect structural integrity. It is essential that the structural integrity of the waterway is not put at risk as part of any development proposal, including excavations, drilling, earthmoving or vibrations from plant and machinery which could, in the worst-case scenario, result in the failure of the waterway infrastructure.

Any Construction Environment Management Plan should include an environmental pollution emergency response protocol in the event of an environmental pollution event taking place. The Canal & River Trust should be included within the pollution response plan. Any stockpiling of materials etc should be sited away from waterway corridors.

The ES must comprehensively address all matters pertaining to ground conditions. It is imperative that the ES includes robust geoenvironmental and geotechnical assessments to evaluate any potential risks to the structural integrity of the waterway infrastructure and the quality of the surrounding land. The development has the potential to significantly alter ground stability, induce settlement, or mobilise contaminants; therefore, detailed investigations are required to ensure that such impacts are fully understood and mitigated to protect the Trust's assets and the environment.

Population and Communities

The Trust concurs that "People and Communities" must be formally scoped into the Environmental Statement (ES). It is essential to recognise that our waterways serve not only as significant recreational assets for local communities but also as vital active travel corridors. Furthermore, the network provides essential residential moorings for a diverse boating community. Consequently, the ES must comprehensively demonstrate the measures proposed to safeguard the well-being of residents and the broader community, ensuring they are protected from any adverse impacts arising from the development.

The Trust as landowner

The Trust has a duty under the Trusts Agreement with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (28 June 2012) to operate and manage the waterways and towpaths for public use and enjoyment. Additionally, the Trust has a duty under S105 Transport Act 1968 to maintain commercial and cruising waterways in a suitable condition for use by the public. The Trust owns the canal, water and the towpath network for the Fossdyke canal, and navigable part of the River Trent.

The Scoping Report Volume 1 provides a summary description of the preferred route corridor. The preferred route corridor has been subdivided into sections, and it would appear that the pipeline will cross the River Trent and the Fossdyke canal, in Section C.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that the Trust is included in discussions over the exact location of the pipeline crossing(s) so we can advise on any potential issues likely to affect navigational safety, operational waterway infrastructure or our interests as an affected landowner.

Any crossing of the river/canal is likely to require the prior consent of the Trust. Please be advised that the Trust is a statutory undertaker and has specific duties to protect its waterways. We would therefore resist any proposed use of compulsory purchase powers which may affect our land or undertakings. We reserve the right to seek protections under s127 of the Planning Act 2008 should any proposals affect land which has been acquired for the purposes of our undertaking. Accordingly, we advise that the acquisition of any Trust land or rights over Trust land should be secured by agreement and we strongly recommend early contact with the Trust's Utilities Team to commence discussions over the terms of such an agreement ahead of submission of the DCO application. Please contact [redacted] Senior Utilities Surveyor, at [redacted]@canalrivertrust.org.uk or on [redacted] for further advice.

As the proposal will involve survey and works affecting the Trust's waterways, in our capacity as landowner, we will also require the applicant/developer to comply with the Trust's current Code of Practice for Works Affecting the

Canal & River Trust. Information can be found here: https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/business-and-trade/undertaking-works-on-our-property-and-our-code-of-practice

The Trust recommends early discussion with the Trust's Infrastructure Services Team over all works likely to affect Trust property. Please contact [redacted] Works Engineer, at [redacted] @canalrivertrust.org.uk or on [redacted] for further advice.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Area Planner

[redacted]@canalrivertrust.org.uk

https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/specialist-teams/planning-and-design

From: [redacted]
Sent: 30 March 2026 19:49
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: EN0610001 - H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above hydrogen pipeline scoping exercise.

I correspond with you on behalf of the Dunham Bridge Company. The Company owns and operates the toll bridge that carries the A57 over the River Trent on the Nottinghamshire/Lincolnshire boundary.

The bridge has a 44 tonne gross vehicle weight limit. This is enforced. Please take note of this when considering any haul routes associated with this project. Haulers should be aware of this. The bridge is registered on the ESDAL data base as having this gross vehicle weight limitation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to draw this restriction to your attention.

With best wishes,

[redacted]

Director

Dunham Bridge Company

East Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Hub & Willow House, Mareham Road, Horncastle,
Lincolnshire, LN9 6PH
T: 01507 601111
www.e-lindsey.gov.uk

Your Reference: EN0610001

Our Reference: 00390/26/INC

Contact: [redacted]

Email: [redacted]@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Date: 27th March 2026

Planning Inspectorate
Environmental Services
Infrastructure Decisions and
Applications Service
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough SL1 4PN

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: EN0610001 – H2 East Pipeline – EIA Scoping Regulation 11 Notification and Consultation

With reference to the above Project and EIA Scoping Opinion Consultation letter dated the 6th March 2026.

The route of the H2 East Pipeline does not fall within the administrative boundary of East Lindsey District Council with the closest part of the route being situated within North East Lincolnshire Council's area at Stallingborough approximately 15 km from the boundary.

We do not therefore consider that there will be any discernible impact upon East Lindsey District Council's area and therefore wish to confirm that we do not have any comments to make on the information to be provided within the Environmental Statement for the above Project.

This advice is therefore based upon the information available currently. Please note that the advice is given without prejudice to any future decision made by the Local Planning Authority upon the receipt of further information.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case officer [redacted]. Many Thanks

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Manager

EAST RIDING
OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

County Hall Beverley East Riding of Yorkshire HU17 9BA Telephone (01482) 393939
Director of Planning and Development Management

Your Ref: EN0610001
Date: 31st March 2026

Contact: [redacted]

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Cadent Gas Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the proposed development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for consulting the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) on the above matter.

Having reviewed the available information, the Councils Transport Planning Officer has advised that they do not anticipate any impacts on ERYC's local highway network. If any movements were to originate from the Hull docks, these would be expected to stay on the Strategic Road Network, which would fall under National Highways' remit. In any case, the material suggests that dock-related activity is more likely to be based on the south bank at Immingham.
The only potential route that could be flagged is the possibility of traffic coming through Goole; however, this appears highly unlikely given that Goole is outside the scoping area.
On that basis, there are no comments to make on the scope or content of the ES from a ERYC highways perspective.

With regards to ecological impacts, ERYC are supportive of the project that contributes towards the UK's net zero and decarbonisation aims. Given the location of the proposal there is limited scope or pathways for impacts on ecological receptors within the East Riding of Yorkshire, with the exception of Section A which lies within the zone of influence of the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA, Ramsar SSSI. The inclusion of Blacktoft Sands RSPB reserve in the scoping assessment is welcomed. The commitment to assessing air, water, noise and disturbance impacts on ecological receptors is supported. The list of embedded mitigation is supported in relation to ecological and ornithological receptors. The Preliminary Habitats Regulations Screening Report is welcomed as is the precautionary approach to assessment. Plans and projects in the East Riding of Yorkshire should be considered as part of the in-combination assessment.

The distance from the proposed development and the heritage assets that fall within ERYC's remit would negate the potential that this development would affect the wider setting in which they are experienced.

[redacted]
Interim Executive Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration

To conclude, due to the distance from the proposed development to the Authorities administrative boundary, East Riding of Yorkshire Council do not have any comments to make on the information to be provided in the ES.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]

Director of Planning and Development Management

Elements Green Limited

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Elements Green is a limited company established under the laws of England and Wales

Environmental Services
Infrastructure Decisions and
Applications Service
Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

2nd April 2026

By email to: H2east@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017(the EIA Regulations) - Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Cadent Gas Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the proposed development) - Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Elements Green Trent Ltd (Elements Green) as the promoter of Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (GNR).

The proposed gas pipeline has the potential to directly interact with, and impact upon, GNR, which is currently programmed to commence construction in 2027. As illustrated in **Appendix 1**, the extent of the interaction between the proposed scoping boundary of the project and GNR's infrastructure is significant. The route of the proposed pipeline crosses land under Option to Lease by Elements Green Trent Ltd, as well as third-party land over which Elements Green Trent Ltd holds easement rights.

Elements Green Trent Ltd would not support the routing of the proposed pipeline through GNR and / or its associated infrastructure, as currently presented.

Elements Green requests that the potential impact of the proposed scheme on GNR's infrastructure and existing assets as set out above is considered in any subsequent reports, including in the Environmental Statement, and as part of any subsequent application. Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of Elements Green's apparatus, protective provisions will be required in a form acceptable to Elements Green's and included within the DCO. Elements Green requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the integrity of our apparatus.

All project information related to GNR, including the Environmental Statement and Illustrative Design, is available in the Examination Library. Elements Green remains open to further engagement.

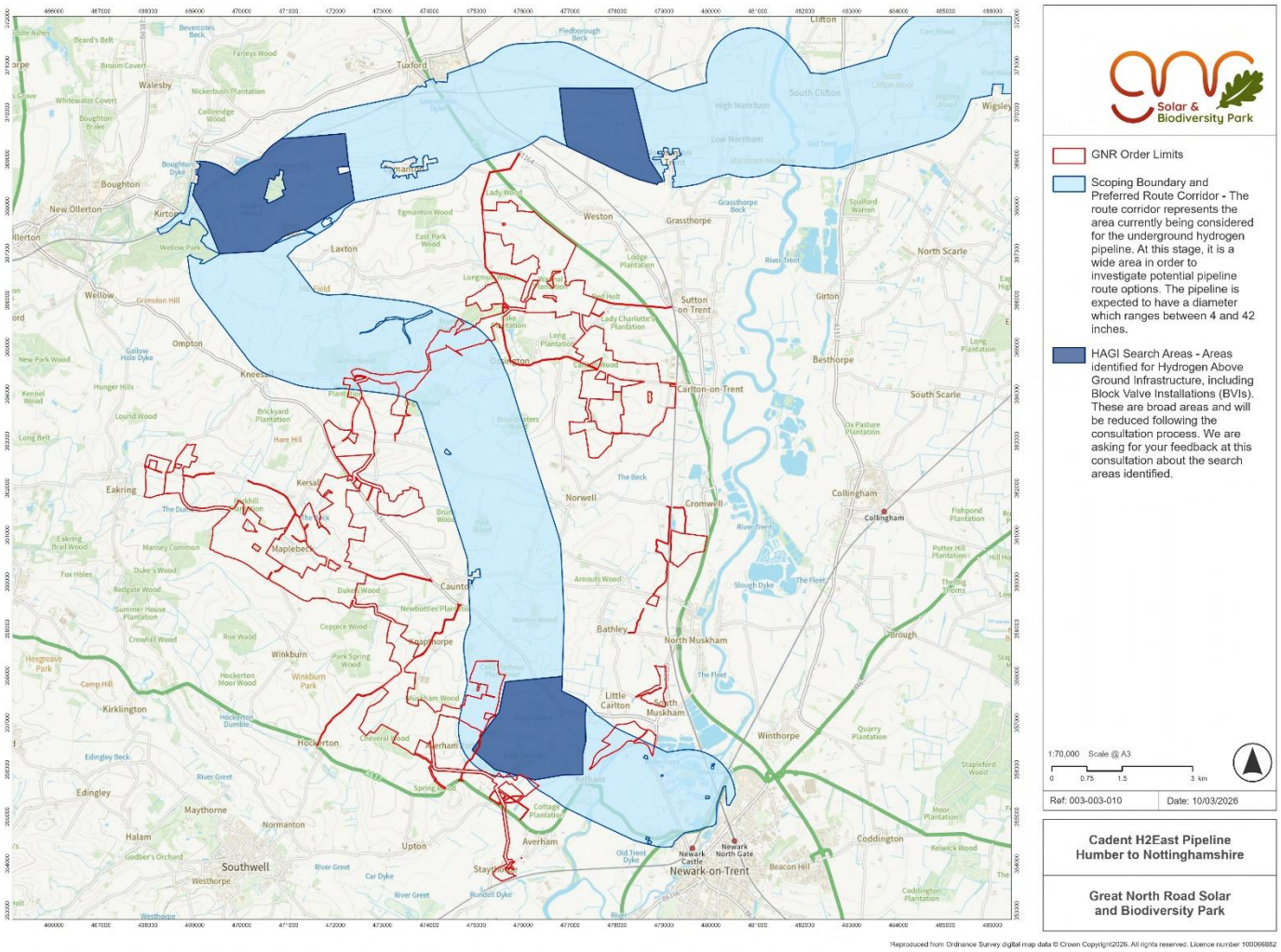
All consultations should be sent to the following: [redacted]@elementsgreen.com as well as by post to

1 Half Moon Street
Mayfair
London
England
W1J 7AY

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]
Managing Director (UK Business Development Operations)

Appendix 1


Solar & Biodiversity Park
GNR Order Limits
Scoping Boundary and Preferred Route Corridor - The route corridor represents the area currently being considered for the underground hydrogen pipeline. At this stage, it is a wide area in order to investigate potential pipeline route options. The pipeline is expected to have a diameter which ranges between 4 and 42 inches.
HAGI Search Areas - Areas identified for Hydrogen Above Ground Infrastructure, including Block Valve Installations (BVIs). These are broad areas and will be reduced following the consultation process. We are asking for your feedback at this consultation about the search areas identified.
1:70,000 Scale @ A3
0 0.75 1.5 3 km
Ref: 003-003-010
Date: 10/03/2026
Cadent H2East Pipeline Humber to Nottinghamshire
Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park
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creating a better place
for people and wildlife

Environment Agency

Jessica Harper- Senior EIA Advisor
Planning Inspectorate
Sent via email:
H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Our ref: XA/2026/100552/01
Your ref: EN0610001

Date: 1 April 2026

Dear Jessica Harper

H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency (EA) on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion for the above Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) received on 6 March 2026.

We have reviewed the submitted documents insofar as they relate to our remit. A full list of documents reviewed is presented in Appendix 1.

We do not agree with the scope of the EIA and would recommend flood risk, fish and aquatic ecology surveys, watercourse crossings and aspects of groundwater and contaminated land and water quality are scoped in to meet the requirements of the EIA regulations. Please see attached Appendix 2 for detailed comments.

Please note this review is on the EIA process only. Other assessments required such as Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), Habit Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Water Framework Directive (WFD) have not been included. We would recommend the developer consult us on the scopes of these studies in due course.

Please note this response does not represent our final view in relation to any future Development Consent Order (DCO), or any environmental permit applications made to us. Our final views will be based on all relevant information including applications and guidance available at the time of submission.

If you require any further details, please contact us on the email address below.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Planning Specialist – Environment Agency
Email: NIteam@environment-agency.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of Documents Reviewed
Appendix 2 – Detailed comments related to the scope of the EIA
Appendix 3 – General comments for consideration
Appendix 4 – Informatives and Advice to the Applicant

Appendix 1 – List of Documents Reviewed

H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report Volume 1 (March 2026) ECHN03-CN-REP-WOR-0000-10080

H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report Volume 2 (March 2026) ref ECHN03-CN-REP-WOR-0000-10080

Appendix 2 – Detailed comments related to the scope of the EIA

Flood Risk

Document Reference(s) Chapter 7	
Issue	Flood risk is not scoped into the Environmental Statement (ES). The Scoping Report suggests a reliance on the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) so has not considered the flood risks both to and from the proposed development, across all phases of the development.
Impact	Failure to assess flood risk comprehensively at this early stage may mean that opportunities to integrate effective mitigation for all stages of the development may be missed.
Solution	Fully scope flood risk into the Environmental Statement (ES), ensuring assessment across all phases of the project. We recommend scoping in flood risk to and from the project, associated with fluvial, tidal and residual flood risks (associated with potential defence breach or overtopping), across all phases of the development.

Document Reference(s) Chapter 7	
Issue	The Scoping Report suggests that the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will assess to a 40-year design life, which does not comply with Planning Practice Guidance for Flood Risk and Coastal Change.
Impact	If the FRA assess to the 40-year design life this could lead to an underestimation of future flood risk, accounting for climate change, throughout the life of the development. This could result in insufficient flood mitigation.
Solution	Assess and design flood risk measures using a minimum 75-year design life, which is in accordance with the Planning Practice Guidance for non-residential development.

Document Reference(s) Table 7.15	
Issue	While the intention to scope potential damage to flood defences into the ES for the construction phase is supported, it is unclear if the current scope includes the flood risks that could arise from defence failure. This includes risks both to the proposed development and to third-party receptors.
Impact	Failure to assess the consequences of flood defence breach, failure, or reduced performance may result in: - Underestimation of flood risk to the development during construction and operation - Potential increases in flood risk to surrounding communities and assets, particularly if defence integrity is compromised by construction activities
Solution	The ES should include a comprehensive assessment of flood defence assets, the risks associated with potential failure, and how any risks will be mitigated. The assessment should cover:

	- Defence type - Current condition survey - Construction details - Potential impacts of construction vibrations - Monitoring requirements - Acceptable vibration thresholds
Additional narrative/ explanation Construction activities can generate vibration and ground disturbance that may affect the structure integrity of nearby flood defences. Pre- and post-construction surveys, combined with real-time monitoring, will help ensure that any deterioration or damage is detected quickly and remediated to prevent increased flood risk.	

Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology

Document Reference(s): Chapter 5, Table 5.14	
Issue	Omission of fish surveys and aquatic ecology (macroinvertebrate and macrophyte) surveys.
Impact	The proposal crosses a number of main watercourses and associated tributaries. As has been stated in Table 5.11, there are number of protected and priority fish species within the order limits. Given the nature of the proposal, there is the potential for impacts on fish and aquatic ecology. Without a thorough understanding of the baseline, the significance may not be sufficiently assessed.
Solution	Include fish and aquatic ecology surveys in the scope of surveys to inform the ES.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 5, Table 5.16, Comm Sa-31	
Issue	Open cut crossing of watercourses.
Impact	Unnecessary impacts to watercourses by using open-cut crossings when there is a method which will avoid open-cut crossing. Open-cut crossing may involve damming and draining down of a section of watercourse leading to loss of habitat, desiccation to aquatic fauna and flora and fragmentation to fish migration.
Solution	The impact should be avoided first, and so trenchless methods should be committed to where crossing watercourses in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 2: Project Description, Section 2.7.23; Table 5.17: Impacts Proposed to be Scoped into the Project Assessment for Biodiversity (Project Phase Refers to Construction (C), Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and Decommissioning (D)). Table 5.16: Relevant Commitments to Biodiversity	
Issue	There is no consideration of watercourse crossings used for access purposes, whether temporary or permanent. Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) structures/activities that last (or cause an effect that lasts) greater than 6-months should be assessed as if permanent.
Impact	Failure to assess the impact of watercourse crossings for access purposes during construction of temporary bridges and culverts, and subsequent use in their operational phase, may cause harm to riparian habitats, create barriers to mammal passage, interfere with conveyance of water and disrupt natural functioning, including geomorphic processes, of the watercourses in question.
Solution	Assess the effects that may occur during construction and use of temporary bridges and culverts. Consider using existing access points where possible. Should existing crossings require upgrading to deal with construction traffic consider upgrading those crossings to an improved standard. For example if the existing crossing is a pipe/flume crossing consider upgrading to an arched/open portal/bottomless culvert of sufficient size so as not to interfere with channel bedforms and flood conveyance.

Additional narrative/ explanation

Avoid the use of culverts. Culverts can interfere with the natural functioning of a watercourse, flow can be impeded when under high flow conditions and the carrying capacity of the culvert is reached, leading to backing up of water and flooding upstream of crossing location. Construction/installation of box and pipe culverts impact river-bed morphology, and may weaken the channel bed, encouraging downstream erosion (scour). NPS-EN1 has a clear watercourse crossing hierarchy where using clear-span bridges is preferred over culverting. We have a general policy for main rivers against the use of culverts. Please see Appendix 4 for some general considerations for watercourse crossings for both access and pipeline installation.

There may be potential for existing watercourse crossing points to be improved for ecology. For example, removal of a culvert and replace with an open span bridge. This option could be explored to provide watercourse units for the Biodiversity Net Gain metric.

Groundwater and Contaminated Land

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7, Table 7.14	
Issue	There are some further impacts not mentioned which we consider should be scoped in: - Pipeline acting as preferential pathway for groundwater and contaminant flow (operation phase). A similar matter is Scoped In in Chapter 12 (Table 12.9, ID GC-08). However, we consider it also relevant to this Chapter. - Excavations in land affected by contamination (all project aspects and work phases). This is different from the unexpected contamination protocol (Comm GR-27), as it puts an expectation for results of the pre-commencement risk assessment and ground investigation to be considered. This would make it expected contamination. Hydrocarbon contamination would be covered by Comm GR-28, but other sources of contamination and potential contaminative substances are not included in that. This applies to all work phases, on the basis that there is potential for some breaking of ground during maintenance works. - Temporary or permanent changes to groundwater levels due to construction-phase dewatering (construction and demolition). - Longer term impacts on groundwater quality due to equipment left in situ at decommissioning. - Thermal effects of the pipeline during operation. The anticipated operating temperature range of the pipeline is not given in the scoping report. Heat is a groundwater pollutant, so if there is a potential for the pipeline to cause heating or cooling of the surrounding soils and groundwater during operation, an assessment of potential impacts must be made.
Impact	Failure to consider these matters may result in unacceptable risks to controlled waters.
Solution	Scope these matters in for further assessment.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7, Table 7.15	
Issue	We disagree to some matters being scoped out: - WE-09: The justification only mentions piling, but there are many other activities which could cause pollution to, or disruption of, groundwater. For example, leaks, spills, and fire extinguishing. Ground and groundwater conditions are not yet sufficiently well understood, but shallow groundwater and high sensitivity receptors are known to be present along the route. - WE-10: The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and supporting documents may be sufficient for construction, but do not cover later phases. The applicant has not committed to an Operation Environmental Management Plan

	or equivalent yet, so we are not confident that there will be suitable management in place. While activities will be limited, use of polluting substances cannot be ruled out, especially during maintenance. Ground and groundwater conditions are not yet sufficiently well understood, but shallow groundwater and high sensitivity receptors are known to be present along the route.
Impact	Failure to consider these matters may result in unacceptable risks to controlled waters.
Solution	Scope these matters in for further assessment.

Water Quality

Document Reference(s): **Chapter 7 Table 7.14**	
Issue	WE-10 Accidental spillages and leakages is proposed to be scoped out for Operation and Decommissioning.
Impact	Any measures detailed in the CEMP and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) to mitigate any potential impacts have not yet been seen. So we are unable to be certain risks of deteriorating the water quality of the water environment will be sufficiently mitigated against.
Solution	Impacts of contamination of surface water, particularly from accidental spillages and leakages, should be scoped in during operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases. Until it can be demonstrated that this would not cause impact (i.e. we can review the CEMP/ DEMP which should include a Surface Water Management Plan and pollution prevention measures).
Additional narrative/ explanation: We acknowledge that traditionally the CEMP is for Construction, as opposed to Operation. However, the justification for scoping out WE-10 says “Appropriate environmental management measures will be implemented in line with the principles set out for Construction.”	

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7 Table 7.14	
Issue	WE-01 and WE-11 are not scoped in for operation, and WE-11 is also not scoped in for decommissioning.
Impact	If there are vehicles or maintenance activities on sit during operation there could be the generation of turbid runoff. The use of chemicals or potential pollutants during operation and decommissioning as part of vehicle refuelling, vegetation management

	or structural maintenance could result in physical and chemical contamination of surface water runoff.
Solution	The applicant should ensure that WE-01 and WE-11 are scoped in for all phases.
Additional narrative/ explanation: We note that for these impacts in Table 7.14 it doesn't include Comm WA-54 as a mitigation commitment. Therefore, surface water run-off could be at risk.	

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7 Table 7.14	
Issue	Foul water during all phases is not mentioned and should be scoped in as an impact.
Impact	Any foul waste generated will need to be contained, and then either connected to a sewer, tankered away, or treated and discharged under permit. If not managed correctly it can greatly increase the amount of nutrients, and other contamination, in receiving water courses and waterbodies.
Solution	A foul water disposal strategy should be provided and any potential for foul water discharge should be considered as a likely significant effect.
Additional narrative/ explanation If sewage will be discharged to public sewer, the applicant should consult with the local water company to ensure that adequate sewer capacity is available, and no adverse effects will occur because of the connection. If treatment and discharge at the site is required, the applicant should consider any potential impacts of this discharge and confirm that a water discharge activity permit will be sought. If road transport to an offsite disposal facility is required, then there should be regard for this within the waste management procedures.	

Appendix 3 – General comments for consideration

Flood Risk

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7. Section 7.5.94 page 7-24.	
Issue	Use of existing datasets may lead to inaccurate assessment if not properly reviewed
Impact	Flood risk effects could be underestimated or inaccurate
Solution	Please review any third-party modelling data you use in line with guidance on Using Modelling for Flood Risk Assessment
Additional narrative/ explanation The Environment Agency holds a number of flood-risk hydraulic models for many of the Main River watercourses crossed by the order limits. These models will be useful for informing assessments of flood risk during the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the project, and will support the design of above-ground infrastructure to ensure it is resilient and does not increase flood risk elsewhere. Several of the hydraulic models for watercourses within the order limits are based on information or datasets that have since been superseded, particularly with respect to climate change allowances. Therefore, it is essential that any modelling information used is carefully evaluated to confirm that it is still representative and incorporates the correct climate change allowances required for Essential Infrastructure. Further details on the checks that should be undertaken when using flood-risk modelling are summarised in the following guidance: Using modelling for flood risk assessments - GOV.UK	

Document Reference(s): Table 7.14:	
Issue	The report proposes that ‘damage to flood defence or surface water drainage infrastructure after construction’ is proposed to be scoped out.
Impact	We would want to ensure any elements left in situ would not impact our future maintenance or improvement works.
Solution	Further consideration and information should be provided on the decommissioning. The removal and reinstatement work to remove redundant infrastructure may potentially take place within areas at risk of flooding or impacting our assets. The flood risk of these activities will need to be assessed, and mitigation measures put in place.

Fisheries

Document Reference(s): Chapter 5, Table 5.3	
Issue	Data sources do not include Environment Agency fish population data.

Impact	Insufficient baseline to inform the ES
Solution	The desk study must include freely available Environment Agency fish population survey data, which is available here: EA Ecology & Fish Data Explorer

Document Reference(s): Chapter 5, Table 5.16, Ec-09	
Issue	Sufficient screen aperture to protect European eel.
Impact	Elvers (juvenile) are particularly susceptible to entrainment into pumps and require finer screen mesh.
Solution	Screens should be used with screen aperture size compliant with the Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Best achievable eel protection would be 2mm screen aperture.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 5, Table 5.16, Gc-60	
Issue	Increased lighting across watercourses.
Impact	Unnatural lighting can inhibit fish behaviour and in certain circumstances could result in impacts to diadromous species such as European eel and salmonid smolts.
Solution	The light plan should consider light on watercourses, which could impact on fish behaviour.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 5, Table 5.16, Bio-03	
Issue	Not assessing the effect on fish eggs from drill vibrations.
Impact	Increased vibration intensity could impact on fish egg development where eggs are laid in gravels.
Solution	The assessment should consider where this is a pathway to fish. Suitable mitigation would be to avoid drilling during sensitive fish migration and spawning periods.

Biodiversity

Document Reference(s): Chapter 2 Section 2.7.62	
Issue	Working hours of the project do not account for seasonal changes to the time of dawn and dusk.
Impact	Construction work near watercourses during the night have a higher potential to disturb nocturnal protected species, such as otter.

Solution	A commitment to construction activities near watercourses being conducted during daylight working hours only, or mitigation needs to be put in place to reduce the risk of auditory disturbance to nocturnal aquatic wildlife in Autumn and Winter.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 5 Section 5.3.3	
Issue	Chapter 5 does not state the applicant's ambition for the Project to deliver the mandatory 10% uplift in Biodiversity using the Biodiversity Net Gain metric.
Impact	It is anticipated BNG will become mandatory for NSIPs in May 2026. To comply with legislation outlined under the Environment Act 2021, the project should be aiming to achieve at least a 10% uplift in biodiversity.
Solution	Confirmation that the project will achieve at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 5, Table 5.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance Applicable to Biodiversity.	
Issue	Table 5.1 does not reference Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024.
Impact	Risk of not considering new environmental definitions in legislation in respect of BNG, such as 'irreplaceable habitat', along with related offences to said habitats.
Solution	Please include the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024 within Table 5.1 for completeness.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 5 Biodiversity, Table 5.14: Additional Sources of Ecology and Nature Conservation Data.	
Issue	No reference to the requirement for River Condition Assessments.
Impact	Baseline condition of watercourses within the Order Limits will not be determined which could lead to inaccuracies in assessing the impacts of the development on watercourses within the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) metric.
Solution	A River Condition Assessment should be conducted by a qualified assessor for any applicable watercourses as per Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
Additional narrative/ explanation River Condition Assessments are required to be undertaken for watercourses within the Order Limit (and any watercourses within 10m of the Order Limit) to inform the watercourse condition element of the BNG metric for watercourse units.	

Document Reference(s): Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

Issue	No references to any buffer zones around watercourses within the Order Limits.
Impact	Insufficient buffer zones between development and watercourses can disrupt the integrity of the natural river corridor and impact riparian ecology. The free movement of riparian mammals can be restricted, there is a potential for habitat fragmentation, and potential impacts on water quality and aquatic ecology from any increases in sediment and pollutant run-off into rivers.
Solution	Where the water environment is unavoidable, we would advise that the development should maintain a riparian buffer around all watercourses including rivers and ditches. As a minimum we would expect this to be 10 metres from the top of the bank to align with Biodiversity Net Gain guidance. This should be included as a commitment within Appendix 4A: Draft Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC). The 10m buffer includes • any permanent or temporary fencing installed as part of this development • any permanent or temporary lighting as this can interrupt free movement, feeding and resting • the storage of construction equipment and of sub-soil or topsoil where watercourses are being crossed by open trench excavations. • entry and exit pits where watercourses are crossed by trenchless techniques During the construction phase, temporary construction compounds within 15 metres of watercourses could be screened with fencing on sides adjacent to the watercourse, and working lighting could be positioned to avoid light-spill onto sections of the watercourse. Both measures would lower the risk of disturbance to riparian mammals occupying the watercourse.

Groundwater and Contaminated Land

Document Reference(s): Chapter 2, paragraphs 2.7.41 to 2.7.46, and Table 7.14 Impact WE-08	
Issue	Use of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) has a risk of drilling fluid breakout. This is not mentioned in the relevant descriptions.
Impact	Use of HDD without a drilling fluid breakout plan could result in uncontrolled release of drilling fluid to controlled waters and other sensitive receptors.
Solution	Include a commitment to produce a drilling fluid breakout plan (or equivalent) if HDD is to be used. The plan will need to be agreed with us prior to commencement of any HDD works.
Additional narrative/ explanation	

The groundwater in the Chalk aquifer can be artesian or sub-artesian depending on the time of the year. For this reason, future excavation of the overlying deposits or HDD crossing needs to be carefully considered. Where trenchless crossings are proposed within a Source Protection Zone 1 or Principal Aquifer, a detailed Hydrogeological Risk Assessment (HRA) must be produced and agreed with us prior to drilling. The applicant will need to demonstrate that drilling activities will not pollute public drinking water supplies or alter groundwater flow pathways.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 2, paragraph 2.8.1 and Scoping Report Volume 2, Appendix 4A	
Issue	The applicant makes no commitment to produce and operational phase environment management plan, or equivalent.
Impact	With no proposed document which can be used to manage risks to the environment during operation, there may be unacceptable uncontrolled risks to controlled waters and other sensitive environmental receptors.
Solution	Provide an explanation of where and how management of operational risks to the environment will be detailed. It would be highly beneficial for a framework Operational Environment Management Plan (or equivalent) to be submitted with the draft DCO and agreed with relevant consultees pre-consent.
Additional narrative/ explanation Maintenance of above and below ground infrastructure is expected to be required during operation. A maintenance schedule will need to be detailed in some operational phase document, and we expect it to be used to ensure risks to controlled waters are managed. This would include, but is not limited to, cleaning drainage systems, vegetation management, and identification of leaks and spills.	

Document Reference(s): Chapter 2, paragraph 2.9.3 and Scoping Report Volume 2, Appendix 4A, Comm G-051	
Issue	Proposal for Decommissioning Plan to only be produced in advance of decommissioning. No allowance made for structured consideration of environmental risks from decommissioning prior to this.
Impact	Method of construction may preclude the most environmentally suitable methods of decommissioning. The management of contamination and risks to groundwater may not be adequately considered during the decommissioning process.
Solution	Include an outline Decommissioning Plan within the DCO application. This does not need to be detailed, but it should include an overview of the main matters which will be considered and included at decommissioning.
Additional narrative/ explanation The applicant should refer to regulatory guidance and general best practice at the time of decommissioning. Whilst the current intention may be for the pipeline to be left in the ground, we strongly recommend that the applicant considers the potential for pipeline removal in their designs. This is so that the method of	

installation does not mean this cannot be reasonably achieved, should it later be deemed necessary. We have noted the assumption that the pipeline will be left in situ and major crossings filled with grout during decommissioning. The Decommissioning Plan (Comm G-51) must specify that any grout or fill materials used will be chemically inert and will not leach contaminants into the surrounding groundwater over the long term.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 2	
Issue	There is limited information on proposed foundation design for the Hydrogen Above Ground Installation (HAGIs) or Block Valve Installation (BVIs). If these require piling or deep penetrative foundations, a Piling/Foundation Works Risk Assessment must be undertaken and agreed with us prior to commencement.
Impact	Foundations may interact with groundwater and change flow paths or levels. Contaminants may be introduced. Piling might be carried out in land affected by contamination.
Solution	We recommend that a specific mitigation commitment to undertake Piling Risk Assessment where deep foundations are required is added to the Register of Environment Actions and Commitments (REAC).
Additional narrative/ explanation (if necessary) This assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the CL:AIRE Piling and Penetrative Ground Improvement Methods on Land Affected by Contamination: Guidance on Pollution Prevention and EA Groundwater Protection Position Statements.	

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7, Table 7.2, paragraphs 7.7.8, 7.8.2, 7.8.3 and Scoping Report Volume 2, Chapter 12, Table 12.2, and Chapter 15, Table 15.2	
Issue	The applicant has not acknowledged various sensitive receptors and potential sources of contamination, nor made reference to publicly available resources with this information.
Impact	Assessment is incomplete. Highly sensitive and protected receptors have not been considered. Potential sources of significant contamination have not been considered.
Solution	Ensure these matters are covered in subsequent reports.
Additional narrative/ explanation Table 7.2: we expect the applicant to consider chalk streams, groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTEs), drinking water safeguard zones, and BGS hydrogeology maps. Groundwater springs and blow wells are present within the vicinity of the proposed route and must be considered. Table 12.2: we expect the applicant to include Defra MAGIC map, Environment Agency landfill data, HSE COMAH data, Mining Remediation Authority maps, NSTA petroleum wells map, and Contaminated Land Special Sites. Note that there	

may have been changes to some of these datasets after the latest published records. We are aware that both the Ulceby and Barrow catchments have per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) issues with several potential source sites. Which must also be considered. OS maps (referenced in 12.5.15), British Geological Survey GeoIndex (referenced in 12.5.17), and any historical maps used should be included in Table 12.2. There are also resources available to identify the locations of former airfield sites. We expect a site-specific Preliminary Risk Assessment to be produced in due course. We note that active airfields and Control of Major Accidents Hazards (COMAH) are covered in Chapter 15, Table 15.2.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7, Table 7.2, paragraphs 7.5.16 to 7.5.22, 7.5.28, 7.5.35 to 7.5.43, 7.5.49, 7.5.56 to 7.5.52, 7.5.68, 7.5.74 to 7.5.80, 7.5.86	
Issue	Water Framework Direction (WFD) groundwater bodies are not discussed. WFD groundwater classification is listed in Table 7.2 as a dataset which has been sourced.
Impact	WFD groundwater bodies and risks thereto have not been considered.
Solution	In 7.6.2 it states: “An FRA and WFD Assessment will be prepared as technical appendices to the ES”. This must include WFD groundwater bodies.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7, Table 7.10	
Issue	We disagree with some of the definitions of receptor sensitivity proposed: - Secondary aquifers should be Medium, not Low - We assign a default 50m SPZ1 to any point where groundwater is abstracted for domestic supply or food production purposes, including private boreholes. Therefore, any Private Water Supply should be High sensitivity. Additionally: - WFD groundwater bodies have not been considered - Chalk streams and springs have not been considered
Impact	We consider the sensitivities to be unsuitable, and the significance of risks to controlled waters may not be adequately determined.
Solution	Update the table and any associated assessments accordingly.
Additional narrative/ explanation There are several chalk streams, which are now a priority habitat, that could be potentially affected within the search area. Those of note are Skitter Beck and its tributaries as well as North Beck Drain and its tributaries. Blow wells, which are artesian springs and a unique habitat, occur in North Lincolnshire, including near the search area.	

Document Reference(s): Chapter 12, Table 12.1, paragraph 12.6.2	
Issue	Important relevant guidance is not listed or incorrect references are given.
Impact	Assessment may not be carried out in line with legal requirements or industry best practice.
Solution	Suggest reference is made to BS 5930:2015+A1:2020, CL:AIRE Piling and Penetrative Ground Improvement Methods on Land Affected by Contamination: Guidance on Pollution Prevention, EA Groundwater Protection Position Statements. BS 10175:2011+A2:2017 has been superseded by BS10175:2026.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 12, paragraphs 12.5.28 to 12.5.30, 12.5.52 to 12.5.54	
Issue	There is discussion of waste sites and historic landfills. We have not identified a reference to the source of these data in the report.
Impact	Source of data cannot be verified.
Solution	Ensure all data sources are appropriately referenced in future documents.
Additional narrative/ explanation Some of the sites listed are known to be associated with contamination or are likely to be determined as Contaminated Land.	

Document Reference(s): Chapter 12, Table 12.4	
Issue	Proposed scope of desk study and ground investigation appears to be inadequate. See Additional Narrative.
Impact	Preliminary geo-environmental may not follow best practice guidance and may miss important details which lead to subsequent unacceptable risks to controlled waters or other receptors.
Solution	Ensure all best practice guidance is followed. Complete a Preliminary Risk Assessment for the whole DCO boundary.
Additional narrative/ explanation In the list of additional sources of ground conditions data to be obtained, the applicant proposes an environmental data search report limited to Hydrogen Above Ground Installation (HAGI) and Block Value Installation (BVI). We disagree. This report needs to cover the whole route as part of a Preliminary Risk Assessment (PRA) in line with Environment Agency Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) and BS 5930:2015+A1:2020. While a targeted Intrusive Ground Investigation based on the PRA may be acceptable in terms or assessing existing land contamination, we consider a baseline study of ground conditions for whole route may be necessary. For example, to identify groundwater conditions and geotechnical constraints, as well as contamination. While the requirements for any ground investigation are not yet established through the PRA, given the site setting, we expect one will be needed.	

The applicant proposes to carry out a site walkover survey in “areas of interest”. We expect the walkover to cover the whole site, in accordance with LCRM and BS5930. Some small areas may not be accessible for various reasons, but these should be the exception. There is no mention of obtaining existing groundwater borehole and abstraction data. The applicant will need to be obtain these from the Environment Agency (public water supply) and LPAs (private or unlicenced boreholes). We are aware that there are private abstractions within the search area. In Table 12.4 there is a reference to Section 12.7. It appears that this should be paragraph 12.6.5.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 12, paragraph 12.7.2	
Issue	“Groundwater aquifers” are included in the list of key receptors, but their sensitivity isn’t defined in Table 12.5.
Impact	Unclear how significance of effect to aquifers will be assessed.
Solution	Include groundwater aquifers, abstractions and source protection zones in this table.
Additional narrative/ explanation See our notes on Table 7.10.	

Document Reference(s): Chapter 15, Table 15.8
Commitments MAD-06 and MAD-07 are related to fire during construction and operation phases. At decommissioning, we require that any controls in place to protect controlled waters should be removed only after the infrastructure itself.

Water Quality

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7 Table 7.2	
Issue	Table 7.2 on Data sources does not reference Environment Agency water quality data.
Impact	If water quality data is not used, then important information may be missed when the WFD Assessment or Environment Statement is produced.
Solution	The applicant should make use of Water Quality Explorer to adequately assess water quality data for the baseline.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7 Section 7.5.93

Issue	There is no mention of water quality monitoring.
Impact	If water quality monitoring is not appropriate then a suitable baseline of water quality data may not be captured, and any trends in water quality deterioration or improvement as a result of the project may not be understood.
Solution	Water quality monitoring should be conducted by the applicant pre-construction, during construction and for the first few months of operation. It should occur at least monthly upstream and downstream of any water crossings or discharges.
Additional narrative/ explanation: In addition to a site walkover hand-held devices in-situ and samples sent to a laboratory should also be used.	

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7 Table 7.13	
Issue	WA-54 in the Relevant Commitments only mentions a Surface Water Management Plan in reference to construction, not the other phases. Furthermore, it says 'A separate drainage strategy may also be provided'.
Impact	If surface water is not managed appropriately during all phases, there could be increases in sediment, hydrocarbons, metals etc reaching watercourses and deteriorating water quality.
Solution	The applicant should commit to Surface Water Management for all phases, including a drainage strategy. This should include a commitment to maintenance of any Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7 Table 7.13	
Issue	There are missing commitments to other best practice management during construction.
Impact	If construction is not managed there could be increases in sediment, hydrocarbons, metals etc reaching watercourses and deteriorating water quality.
Solution	The applicant should commit to suitable watercourse buffer distances (10m) between activities/storage and the banks of watercourses. The applicant should commit to appropriate fuel and chemical storage (i.e. bunded, covered, 110% volume), and be clear on how concrete laying and vehicle washing facilities will be managed.

	Guidance is available at: Pollution prevention for businesses - GOV.UK

Document Reference(s): Chapter 7 Table 7.13 and Table 7.14	
Issue	There is uncertainty over the method of pipeline construction, Comm Wt-13 is unclear. Comm Gr-29 Drilling Fluids does not include a commitment to a drilling fluid breakout management plan.
Impact	HDD, or other trenchless installation methods, could impact the water quality of the water environment if not sufficiently managed.
Solution	If Horizontal Directional Drilling will be used, the applicant should commit to a drilling fluid breakout management plan. This information should be added to impact WE-08 and mitigation Comm Gr-29.

Document Reference(s): Chapter 2 section 2.7.31; Chapter 7 Table 7.13	
Issue	There may be the discharge of surface runoff and Comm Gr-28 suggests hydrocarbon interceptors may be used before discharge. However, it is unclear if the applicant will apply for water discharge activity permits.
Impact	The obligation to apply for and comply with a water discharge activity permit could be used as appropriate mitigation for several impacts that could occur during construction.
Solution	If discharge at the site is required, the applicant should consider any potential impacts of this discharge and confirm that a water discharge activity permit will be sought from the Environment Agency. Given the timeframe to determine environmental permits we encourage applicants to engage with us on permit requirements at the earliest possible stage.
Additional narrative/ explanation: Only clean, uncontaminated water should be discharged to surface water or groundwater and any permits need to be planned for well in advance of construction. A permit does not mean they can deteriorate the water course and may not be granted, please see Appendix 4 for further information on permits.	

Water Resources

Document Reference(s): Chapter 2; Chapter 7	
Issue	The location of this development is in an area of serious water stress (as identified in our report Water stressed areas – 2021 classification (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-stressed-areas-2021-classification). Water supply to meet various construction demands has not been considered.
Impact	The project passes through both Severn Trent and Anglian water supply zones. It also crosses multiple river catchments, the Lower Trent and Erewash; Idle and Torne; Witham; and Louth Grimsby and Ancholme; for which, abstraction licensing policy varies. If water availability is underestimated, this can pose problems pre commencement which can be anticipated during planning.
Solution	A basic water supply strategy should be included at pre-application as part of the ES to evaluate all consumptive uses of water anticipated during construction. These may include but are not limited to dust suppression, wheel wash, potable supply to welfare stations, concrete batching and bentonite drilling fluids where HDD is employed.
Additional narrative/ explanation Anglian Water has adopted a "Non-Domestic Water Requests Policy" for which it asks of applicants who require non-domestic water supply to complete a Water Resource Assessment to understand water demands, water efficiency measures and to effectively forecast water supply requirements. This Water Resources assessment will fulfil the strategy described above and should also include a basic options appraisal of alternative sources of supply should Anglian water supply not be unavailable at some or all of the locations required by the project. This may include 3rd party tankering (the impact of which adds HGVs to local roads); rainwater harvesting (issues of low volumes and limited opportunity); and/or abstraction from Surface Water or Groundwater which is subject to the abstraction licensing strategies listed above.	

Installations

Document Reference(s): Chapters 8 to 17 and Appendices	
Issue	Table 15.5 is inaccurate
Impact	Inaccurate source date impacting final assessment
Solution	Review COMAH 2015: Search (https://notifications.hse.gov.uk/COMAH2015/Search.aspx) to confirm data is accurate.
Additional narrative/ explanation (if necessary)	

Table 15.5 appears to be based on out of date information for example “Total Lindsey Oil Refinery Limited” is at the time of writing “Prax Lindsey Oil Refinery Limited” and “Novartis Grimsby Limited” has de-notified.

Environment Agency Owned Land

As the pipeline is likely to affect Environment Agency land, the Estates team will need early involvement in order to agree an easement with Cadent. Please could Estates be kept updated as the project progresses so that any agreements required can be arranged.

Appendix 4 – Informatives and Advice to the Applicant

Advice to Applicant

Flood Risk

Any assessment of flood risk should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Application of a sequential approach to siting Hydrogen Above Ground Installations, avoiding areas of flood risk wherever possible
- Prioritisation of lowest flood risk areas for development
- Demonstration that there will be no loss of floodplain storage within the 1 in 100-year + climate change fluvial extent during construction, operation or decommissioning, with level-for-level and volume-for-volume compensation being provided where required.
- Assessment of future flood risk throughout the development's lifetime, taking account of the relevant climate change allowances in line with government guidance *Flood Risk Assessments: climate change allowances.*
- Provision of flood risk mitigation in compliance with local and national policy
- Identification of opportunities to reduce overall flood risk

Stockpiling

The FRA must include an assessment of the storage of topsoil and subsoil within the temporary working corridor within the floodplain to ensure that any stored material does not interfere with flood flow routes and/or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere in the area.

Set back distances

Works should also be sufficiently set back from any main rivers and or the toe of any flood defences.

Above ground installations, temporary working areas or storage areas must be set back a minimum of 8 metres from main rivers and fluvial defences and 16 metres from tidal / sea defences.

Cumulative effects of other projects

There are several other DCOs that are likely to be present in the area when this project is operational. There may also be overlap in construction timings and decommissioning.

The scoping route boundary passes through and close to approved DCOs:

- ABLE Marine Energy Park
- Immingham Eastern Ro-Ro Terminal
- Immingham Green Energy Terminal
- North Killingholme Power Project
- Viking CCS Pipeline

There are also several pre-application ones including:

- Humber Carbon Capture Pipeline
- Stallingborough Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) generating plant and Carbon Capture Plant (CCP)
- Great North Road Solar Farm,
- North Humber to High Marnham electricity transmission project,
- One Earth Solar Farm.

Middle Ancholme Catchment Management Project

The Middle Ancholme Catchment Management project will focus on flood risk on the main River Ancholme and its tributaries between Bishopsbridge and Brigg. This project aims to deliver the policies within the Ancholme Catchment Flood Management Plan and builds on the previous River Ancholme strategy from early 2000's. Previous projects tried unsuccessfully to develop formal flood storage areas, as these were found to be unaffordable under the Partnership Funding Policy. This new approach aims to build a partnership with the landowners and Ancholme Internal Drainage Board (IDB) to develop a more affordable, sustainable and flood resilient approach. Including, by identifying where water could be stored within the catchment and then utilising the existing drainage infrastructure more effectively. This will mean apportioning the available economic benefits to justify a range of investments to existing Main River, surface water and land drainage networks. This collaboration will also involve the newly formed Ancholme Catchment Partnership and consider the need for water storage for both public / industry water supply and irrigation purposes.

We are currently working towards an outline business case and undergoing updates to hydraulic modelling and looking at the model in combination with the Internal Drainage Board catchment model. We hope to have some preliminary outputs and potential focus areas of works by the end of 2026. Please contact the Environment Agency for further information.

Flood Risk Activity Permits (FRAPs)

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 require a permit to be obtained for any activities which will take place:

- On or within 8 metres of a main river (16 metres if tidal)
- On or within 8 metres of a flood defence structure or culvert (16 metres if tidal)
- On or within 16 metres of a sea defence
- Involving quarrying or excavation within 16 metres of any main river, flood defence (including a remote defence) or culvert.
- In a floodplain more than 8 metres from the river bank, culvert or flood defence structure (16 metres if it's a tidal main river) and you don't already have planning permission.

For further guidance please visit https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits or contact our National Customer Contact Centre on 03702

422 549. It is noted that the developer may be a protected undertaker, for which exemptions could apply. Please refer to the following guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-permitting-regulations-exempt-flood-risk-activities/exempt-flood-risk-activities-environmental-permits.

The applicant should not assume that a permit will automatically be forthcoming once a Development Consent Order (DCO) has been approved, and we advise them to consult us at the earliest opportunity.

Disapplication

If any of the works are likely to require a FRAP, we recommend that you inform the Environment Agency at the earliest opportunity, as to whether you are seeking to disapply the Environmental Permitting Regulations (England and Wales) 2016 for flood risk activities as part of the DCO. Please note that the DCO will need to include protective provisions for our benefit if the disapplication of FRAPs is sought.

Main River crossings

We recommend the use of Horizontal Directional Drilling for any crossings below a designated Main River. These should have a 5m or greater depth below the river bed level, but additional depth requirements made be necessary depending on proximity to flood defences.

Opportunities to reduce flood risk - In accordance with NPS EN-1 and the requirements of the Exception Test, new energy infrastructure in flood risk areas should look to, where possible, reduce flood risk overall. EN-1 also recommends that flood mitigation measures make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques. We strongly urge the applicant to consider the natural flood management opportunities available within the area as a means of reducing flood risk overall. We would be happy to engage with the applicant further on this.

The following are general guiding principles to consider when designing watercourse crossings to avoid negatively affecting geomorphology and natural processes:

- Avoid unnecessary interference with natural processes. For instance, encourage use of trenchless techniques such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to minimise the likelihood of cables entering the water environment.
- Ensure watercourse crossing design is informed by assessment of fluvial processes and geomorphology. For example, depth of HDD crossing should consider the likelihood of vertical channel change.
- Avoid designs which present legacy risks to natural processes and geomorphology beyond the project lifespan. For example, infrastructure such as access tunnels which are left in-situ after decommissioning could be exposed by future coastal erosion or river movement, becoming an impediment to natural processes.

- Consider opportunities to deliver WFD mitigation measures/BNG uplift as part of the design.
- Avoid preventing delivery of mitigation measures, e.g. avoid bringing cables to surface level in floodplains earmarked for future river restoration or flood defence works (including construction of bypass channels).

Notes:

i. WFD applies to all surface waterbodies, not just those designated for monitoring purposes.

ii. Small watercourses and WFD - watercourses with a catchment less than 10km/2 connected to a downstream WFD waterbody take the classification of that waterbody.

ii. BNG guidelines indicate that structures built within 10 m of the bank top of a watercourse qualify as encroachment, which may affect the uplift score calculated using the BNG Watercourse metric.

[*BNG guidance is mentioned here because our usual easement for structures, operations, launch pits is to be at least 8m away from the watercourse bank or landward base of fluvial defence structure/embankment (16m if defence structure is for tidal purposes). As stated above, BNG watercourse metric considers anything within 10m of banktop to be encroaching on the watercourse*.]

- Any potential construction, operational, and decommissioning phase impacts that the proposed scheme may have on the river must be subject to a WFD Assessment, which we would review.
- Any infrastructural developments on river/floodplain environments should be designed and delivered to have a minimal impact on natural river dynamics (e.g. erosion, deposition, meander migration etc.) and should not place any significant limitations on future river restoration projects.
- Geomorphologically dynamic behaviour is deemed likely to intensify in the next decades in line with Flood Estimation Handbook (Flood Estimation Handbook (FEH) | UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (ceh.ac.uk). Therefore, any infrastructure developments should also take some account of the likelihood for increased lateral and vertical river dynamics anticipated to result from continued hydro-climatic intensification (e.g. ‘a flood-rich epoch’) over the remainder of the 21st century (i.e., future proofed designs that are not just based on present-day baseline geomorphological configuration/behaviour).
- If river crossings (bridges, culverts, and buried cables) are required as part of the development, we would expect to see geomorphologically robust designs that will cause minimal impacts on natural fluvial processes operating in the river/floodplain environment over the course of the 21st century.

Further guidance in regard to river crossings can be found in the following document:

SEPA, 2010. Engineering in the water environment: good practice guide River crossings Second edition. SEPA

Watercourse sensitivity

- Care should be taken by applicants when determining watercourse sensitivity, especially the use of Q95 scores. Rivers with a higher Q95 flow are not more sensitive than rivers with a lower Q95. In the case of water quality, the reverse of this is true, with less dilution meaning a higher sensitivity to change. Some watercourses with low Q95 may also be winterbournes, and therefore cannot accommodate change easily, as they would be dry for most of the year.
- WFD designation is a method of monitoring and classifying the ecological health of the water environment and not an indication of greater or lesser sensitivity to change. Therefore, watercourses with a WFD designation are no more sensitive than those which have not been designated.

Sensitivity to change cannot be determined from a desk study alone. When determining the sensitivity of a watercourse, the applicant should ensure that professional judgement and the results of any surveys are also incorporated into the assessment.

Groundwater and Contaminated Land

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

We have not identified mention of PFAS within the EIA scoping report. We strongly recommend that all equipment and infrastructure are Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) free. If materials containing PFAS are used, we suggest that there is consideration of this in the operational environmental management plan (or equivalent, if produced) and the Decommissioning Plan.

For example, if PFAS used as coating on equipment is damaged, there is a risk of persistent chemicals entering the natural environment during heavy rainfall, maintenance, and removal.

The applicant should ensure that any bentonite used for trenchless drilling, or elsewhere in the scheme, has not been treated with chemicals containing PFAS. Fuel, oils and other chemicals, such as cleaning agents and decontaminants, should be PFAS-free wherever possible.

Environmental Permits

If dewatering is required, it will require an abstraction licence if it doesn't meet the criteria for exemption in *The Water Abstraction and Impounding (Exemptions) Regulations 2017 Section 5: Small scale dewatering in the course of building or engineering works*. It may also require a discharge permit if it falls outside of our regulatory position statement for de-watering discharges.

If the applicant does not meet the exemption and requires a full abstraction licence, applicants should be aware that some aquifer units may be closed for new consumptive abstractions in this area. More information can be found on GOV.UK: Abstraction licensing strategies (CAMS process) and Apply for a water abstraction or impounding licence.

If the dewatering activity can be demonstrated to be discharged to the same source of supply without intervening use (i.e. non-consumptive), this will increase the likelihood of a licence being granted.

Please note that the typical timescale to process a licence application is 9-12 months. The applicant may wish to consider whether a scheme-wide dewatering application rather than individual applications would be beneficial. We suggest talking to our National Permitting Service early in the project planning.

For an extensive programme of dewatering over a long length project, we would expect to see a dewatering management plan which seeks to establish what activity is outside of regulation, what will require an abstraction licence and details of any permanent dewatering anticipated.

Temporary dewatering of wholly or mainly rainwater that has accumulated in an excavation may be exempt from an Environmental Permit for a Water Discharge Activity. More information can be found on our website: Temporary dewatering from excavations to surface water: RPS 261. Note that this does not permit discharge of groundwater from a passive or active dewatering activity or permit the abstraction of groundwater.

The applicant may also need to consider discharge of groundwater, especially if it is contaminated.

The use of drilling muds for the directional drilling may require a groundwater activity permit unless the 'de minimis' exemption applies. Early discussion about this is also recommended.

The Applicant should be advised that decisions on applications could take 4 months if you are applying for a new permit.

Discharging runoff to watercourses has the potential to transport pollutants and silt, and should be a last resort with mitigation in place to reduce the impact. Additional guidance in relation to discharging and permits is available at the following links:

• Discharges to surface water and groundwater: environmental permits - GOV.UK

• Get advice before you apply for an environmental permit - GOV.UK

Please find to follow the link to the Tracked Permit service:

Request environmental permit coordination for major projects - GOV.UK

This can be used if a proposal:

- relates to a major infrastructure project or complex housing development
- requires multiple environmental permits or licences, or a combination of both

Waste on-site
Excavated materials that are recovered via a treatment operation can be re-used on-site under the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice. This voluntary Code of Practice provides a framework for determining whether excavated material arising from site during remediation or land development works are waste.

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically, and that the permitting status of any proposed on-site operations are clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

The Environment Agency recommends that developers should refer to:

- CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Code of Practice
- EA Regulatory Position Statement 215: Treating small volumes of contaminated soil and groundwater

Waste to be taken off site
Contaminated soil that is, or must be, disposed of, is waste. Therefore, its handling, transport, treatment and disposal is subject to waste management legislation, which includes:

- Duty of Care Regulations 1991
- Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005
- Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010
- The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011

Developers should ensure that all contaminated materials are adequately characterised both chemically and physically in line with British Standards BS EN 14899:2005 'Characterisation of Waste - Sampling of Waste Materials - Framework for the Preparation and Application of a Sampling Plan'. The permitting status of any proposed treatment or disposal activity should be clear. If in doubt, the Environment Agency should be contacted for advice at an early stage to avoid any delays.

If the total quantity of waste material to be produced at or taken off site is hazardous waste and is 500kg or greater in any 12-month period, the developer will need to register with us as a hazardous waste producer. Refer to our website for more information.

Sustainable Drainage Systems
The Government's expectation is that sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) will be provided in new developments wherever this is appropriate. The Environment Agency supports this expectation.

Where infiltration SuDS are to be used for surface run-off from roads, car parking and public or amenity areas, they should:

- be suitably designed
- meet Governments non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems – these standards should be used in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance
- use a SuDS management treatment train – that is, use drainage components in series to achieve a robust surface water management system that does not pose an unacceptable risk of pollution to groundwater

Where infiltration SuDS are proposed for anything other than clean roof drainage in a SPZ1, a hydrogeological risk assessment should be undertaken, to ensure that the system does not pose an unacceptable risk to the source of supply.

See the Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection, position statement G13: Groundwater protection position statements.

Installations
There are a number of passive diffusive tube monitoring locations within the various local authority areas, as well as continuous monitors for NO2, PM10 and PM2.5, all of which show concentrations that are below the relevant Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) of 40 µg/m3 for NO2 and PM10 and 20 µg/m3 for PM2.5.

The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 require that concentrations of PM_{10} in the UK must not exceed an annual average of 40 $\mu g/m^3$ for PM_{10} as stated in the report. It should also be noted that the standard also requires that a 24-hour average of 50 $\mu g/m^3$ for PM_{10} is not exceeded more than 35 times in a single year.

The current Limit Value for PM2.5 is 20 $\mu g/m^3$. The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023 require that in England by the end of 2040:

- An annual average of 10 $\mu g/m^3$ for $PM_{2.5}$ is not exceeded at any monitoring station.
- Population exposure to $PM_{2.5}$ is at least 35 per cent less than in 2018.

However, the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 for England set interim targets to be met by January 2028 which will apply during the construction phase of this project of:

- An annual average of 12 $\mu g/m^3$ for $PM_{2.5}$ is not exceeded at any monitoring station.
- Population exposure to $PM_{2.5}$ is at least 22 per cent less than in 2018.

This should be noted in the assessment going forward.

Peat

Surveying areas where peat has been identified on the peaty soils map is recommended. We would suggest that the assessment of peat quality should also include carbon content. That way more informed decisions can be made about the pipeline route to minimise impact to peat carbon store.

From: [redacted]@forestrycommission.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 April 2026 13:33
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: H2East Pipeline : Humber to Nottinghamshire - EIA Scoping Consultation

> You don't often get email from [redacted]@forestrycommission.gov.uk. Learn why this is important

Thank you for consulting the Forestry Commission on this proposal.

As a Non-Ministerial Government Department, the Forestry Commission provide no opinion supporting or objecting to an application. Rather we provide advice on the potential impact that the proposed development could have on trees and woodland including ancient woodland.

We note there are numerous areas of Ancient Woodland both in and adjacent to the scoping boundary. While the documents state that the pipeline route will avoid ancient woodland and utilise trenchless techniques, indirect impacts will still need to be considered.

We also note that 10 Ancient or veteran trees have been identified within the scoping boundary, together with numerous area of mixed deciduous priority habitat woodland.

Ancient Woodland:

Ancient woodlands are an irreplaceable habitat. They have great value because they have a long history of woodland cover, being continuously wooded since at least 1600AD with many features remaining undisturbed.

Section 5.4.32 of EN-1 – The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy states:

"Applicants should include measures to mitigate fully the direct and indirect effects of development on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees or other irreplaceable habitats during both the construction and operational phases"

We would particularly refer you to further technical information set out in Natural England and Forestry Commission's Standing Advice on Ancient Woodland – plus supporting Assessment Guide and "Keepers of Time" – Ancient and Native Woodland and Trees Policy in England.

The Standing Advice states that proposals should have a buffer zone of **at least** 15m from the boundary of ancient woodlands to avoid root damage which can result in loss or deterioration of the woodland. Where assessment shows impacts are likely to extend beyond this distance, you're likely to need a larger buffer zone. For example, the effect of air pollution from development that can result from a significant increase in traffic or dust from construction.

For ancient or veteran trees (including those on the woodland boundary), the buffer zone should be **at least** 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree. The buffer zone should be 5 metres from the edge of the tree's canopy if that area is larger than 15 times the tree's diameter. This will create a minimum root protection area.

Where possible, buffer zones should contribute to wider ecological networks and be part of the green infrastructure of the area. They should consist of semi-natural habitats such as including woodland, scrub, heathland and wetland.

There is a need to consider both the direct and indirect impacts resulting from construction. Direct impacts can include, but are not limited to, damaging or compacting soil, damaging functional habitat connections and changing the woodland ecosystem by removing the woodland edge or thinning trees. Indirect impacts can also include reducing the amount of semi-natural habitats next to ancient woodland, increasing the amount of dust, light, air or soil pollution.

Due to the irreplaceable nature of ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees, most temporary effects will result in irreplaceable damage.

We would expect to see a detailed assessment of any impacts to the ancient woodlands, including details of measures to be taken to reduce and mitigate any effect.

It is essential that fuels, chemicals or water materials such as topsoil, minerals or hardcore are not stored on Ancient woodland soils or under the woodland canopy.

Mixed deciduous woodland – Priority Habitat:

Mixed Deciduous woodlands are on the National Forest Inventory and the Priority Habitat Inventory (England).

They were recognized under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan as being the most threatened, requiring conservation action. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan has now been superseded but this priority status remains under the Natural Environment & Rural

Communities Act 2006. (NERC) Sect 40 “Duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity” and Sect 41 – “List of habitats and species of principle importance in England”.

Section 5.11.27 of EN-1 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy states:

“*Existing trees and woodlands should be retained wherever possible…….The applicant should assess the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and develop mitigation measures to minimise adverse impacts and any risk of net deforestation as a result of the scheme. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, the use of buffers to enhance resilience, improvements to connectivity and improved woodland management. Where woodland loss is unavoidable, compensation schemes will be required, and the long term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured”*

Fragmentation is one of the greatest threats to mixed deciduous woodland. Woodlands can suffer loss or deterioration from nearby development through loss of connectivity, damage to soils, roots and vegetation and changes to drainage and air pollution from an increase in traffic or dust, particularly during the construction phase of a development. Loss of habitat connectivity is a particular concern.

For any woodland within the development boundary, land required for temporary use or land where rights are required for the diversion of utilities, the Root Protection Zone must be taken into consideration. The Root Protection Zone (as specified in British Standard 5837) is there to protect the roots of trees, which often spread out further than the tree canopy.

Protection measures include taking care not to cut tree roots (e.g., by trenching) or causing soil compaction around trees (e.g., through vehicle movements or stacking heavy equipment) or contamination from poisons (e.g., site stored fuel or chemicals) and fencing off these areas to prevent unintended incursions into the root protection zone as well as dust prevention measures to reduce any potential impact of dust pollution.

Net Deforestation and Tree Planting:

It is expected that there will be thorough assessment of all trees within the project boundary to identify any ancient or veteran trees in line with good arboricultural practice (BS 5837), also to assess any net loss of trees and the development of mitigation measures to minimise any risk of net deforestation because of the scheme. A

scheme that bisects any woodland, will not only result in a significant loss of woodland cover, but will also reduce the ecological value and natural heritage impacts due to habitat fragmentation which will have a negative impact on it's ability to respond to the impacts of climate change.

Hedgerows, individual trees and woodlands within a development site should also be considered in terms of their overall connectivity between woodlands affected by the development.

Where woodland loss is unavoidable, we would expect to see significant compensation and the use of buffer zones to enhance the resilience of neighbouring woodlands. These zones should include further tree planting or a mosaic of semi-natural habitats.

Perhaps with the creation of some larger woodland blocks and hedgerow/hedgerow trees between existing woodland blocks, to link them and ensure maximum gains to increase habitat connectivity, making woodlands more resilient and to benefit biodiversity across the whole site. Ideally we would like to see woodland creation to be carried out in 5ha blocks or that connecting planting with existing woodlands, should create blocks of at least 5ha.

With the Government aspiration to increase tree and canopy cover to 16.5% of land area in England by 2050, The Forestry Commission is seeking to ensure that tree planting is a consideration in every development not just as compensation for loss. However, there are a number of issues that need to be considered when proposing significant planting schemes:

The species and provenance of new trees and woodland needs to be considered to ensure a resilient treescape which can cope with the full implications of a changing climate. The biosecurity of all planting stock also needs to be considered to avoid the introduction of pests and diseases, particularly in areas near ancient woodlands.

Use of the Forestry Commission Ecological Site Classification Tool (ESC) can assist with selection of tree species that are ecologically suited to particular sites and includes climate change predictions to allow for future suitability and woodland resilience.

Plans should also be in place to ensure the long term management and maintenance of new and existing woodland.

Avoiding impacts and good landscape design

To meet planning policy and Government guidance, we advise that the EIA scoping and future environmental assessments for this project should include the following:

- Robust adherence to the Standing Advice to rule out loss and deterioration of ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees as far as possible. For example, this may include the need for a larger buffer area than the 15m buffer which is a minimum required for a single dwelling and *might* be sufficient for ruling out impacts to roots in many cases but a larger buffer *may* be required to avoid other impacts (eg hydrological changes). The Assessment Guide in the Standing Advice can help the applicant to establish what further assessments may be needed as part of the EIA process to avoid unexpected problems later on in the design process.
- A thorough assessment of all trees within the project boundary to identify any ancient or veteran trees in line with good arboricultural practice (BS 5837), to assess any net loss of trees and the development of mitigation measures to minimise any risk of net deforestation because of the scheme.
- Hedgerows, individual trees and woodlands within a development site should be considered in terms of their overall connectivity between woodlands affected by the development.
- Utilise biodiversity gains as part of avoiding woodland and tree impacts (especially ancient/veteran) which can also maximise biodiversity benefits by embracing irreplaceable and high priority habitats – for example focussing on ecological enhancements/creation of woodland edges.
- Woodland creation and improvements to ecological connectivity. For example, there are potential opportunities to link fragmented woodland habitats, which will increase habitat connectivity, making woodlands more resilient and benefitting biodiversity across the project area.
- Overall increase in the tree canopy cover to contribute to the Government's target to increase tree and canopy cover to 16.5% of land area in England by 2050.

We hope these comments have been useful to you. If you require any further information, particularly on buffer zones for ancient woodland or veteran trees, or tree planting, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]

Local Partnership Advisor

East & East Midlands

Tel: [redacted]

[redacted]@forestrycommission.gov.uk

Subscribe to our newsletter to be the first to hear about the latest information, advice, and news from the Forestry Commission

From: Great Coates Village Council <clerk.greatcoatesvc@gmail.com>
Sent: 09 March 2026 08:56
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: EN0610001 - H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> You don't often get email from clerk.greatcoatesvc@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

FYI - this doesn't directly affect Great Coates but the pipeline proposal does go between Healing & Stallingborough.

[redacted]

Clerk to the Council

0333 772 7355 | clerk@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk

28 Allington Drive, Grimsby, DN37 9FF

Website: www.greatcoatespc.com

Best Kept Village 2021

EAST MIDLANDS 2021 Silver Gilt 2022, 2023, 2024 Gold

UK FINALIST 2024 GOLD MEDAL

Health and Safety Executive

CEMHD Policy - Land Use Planning,
NSIP Consultations,
Building 1.2,
Redgrave Court,
Merton Road,
Bootle, Merseyside

HSE email: NSIP.applications@hse.gov.uk

Cadents Project team: humbertonotts@h2east.co.uk
PINS: H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Project team and PINS

Date: 19 March 2026

PROPOSED H2EAST PIPELINE – HUMBER TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (the project)
PROPOSAL BY CADENT GAS LTD (the applicant)
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2017 (as amended) REGULATIONS 10 and 11

Thank you for your letter of 3 March 2026 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project. HSE does not comment on EIA Scoping Reports but the following information is likely to be useful to the applicant.

HSE's land use planning advice

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distances?

According to HSE's records, the proposed **H2East Pipeline, Humber to Nottinghamshire** project components as specified in the ***Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, EN0610001, Volume 1 (Chapters 1 to 7), dated March 2026, Figure 1.1a, Rev 01, drawing title 'EIA SCOPING BOUNDARY OVERVIEW'***, does appear to cross the Consultation Zones of several Major Accident Hazard (MAH) sites and MAH pipelines. Please see the list attached in Appendix 1 a (MAH sites) & b (MAH pipelines).

The Applicant should make contact with the operators of MAH sites (see Appendix 1 a), to inform an assessment of whether or not the proposed development is vulnerable to a possible major accident.

The Applicant should also make the necessary approaches to the relevant MAH pipeline operators (see Appendix 1 b). There are three particular reasons for this:

i) the pipeline operator may have a legal interest in developments in the vicinity of the pipeline. This may restrict developments within a certain proximity of the pipeline.

ii) the standards to which the pipeline is designed and operated may restrict major traffic routes within a certain proximity of the pipeline. Consequently, there may be a need for the operator to modify the pipeline or its operation if the development proceeds.

iii) to establish the necessary measures required to alter/upgrade the pipeline to appropriate standards.

HSE's Land Use Planning advice would be dependent on the location of areas where people may be present. When we are consulted by the Applicant with further information under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, we can provide full advice.

Would Hazardous Substances Consent be needed?

The presence of hazardous substances on, over or under land at or above set threshold quantities (Controlled Quantities) will probably require Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 as amended. The substances, alone or when aggregated with others for which HSC is required, and the associated Controlled Quantities, are set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015 as amended.

HSC would be required to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances at or above the controlled quantities set out in Schedule 1 of these Regulations.

If hazardous substances planning consent is required, please consult HSE on the application.

Consideration of risk assessments

Regulation 5(4) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 requires the assessment of significant effects to include, where relevant, the expected significant effects arising from the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents. HSE's role on NSIPs is summarised in the following Advice Note 11 Annex on the Planning Inspectorate's website - Annex G – The Health and Safety Executive. This document includes consideration of risk assessments on page 3

Appendix 1

a. Major Accident Hazard sites:

	HSE Reference	MAH site Operator	MAH site Address
1	H0251	British Sugar PLC	Kelham Factory, Newark, Notts, NG24 1DL.
2	H0261	Hanson Brick	Station Road, Kirton Newark, Notts, NG22 9LG.
3	H0317	Novartis Grimsby Ltd	Pyewipe, Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire, DN31 2SR.
4	H0320	Phillips 66 Limited.	Eastfield Road, South Killingholme, North Lincolnshire, DN40 3DW.
5	H0322	Bluestar Fibres	PO Box 24, Great Coates, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 2TT.
6	H0332	Synthomer (UK) Ltd.	South Marsh Road, Stallingborough, Nr Immingham, Humberside DN41 8DB.
7	H0360	Associated British Ports.	No 2/3 shed Immingham Dock, Immingham, North East Lincolnshire, DN40 2QW.
8	H0411	Exolum Immingham Ltd	Immingham East Terminal, Immingham Dock Immingham, DN40 2QW
9	H0422	Tronox Pigment UK Ltd	Laporte Road, Stallingborough, North East Lincolnshire, DN41 8DX.
10	H0424	Prax Lindsey Oil Refinery Ltd.	Eastfield Road, South Killingholme, Grimsby North East Lincolnshire, DN40 3LW.
11	H0639	Singleton Birch Ltd.	Melton Ross Quarries, Barnetby, South Humberside, DN38 6AE.
12	H0974	Associated Petroleum Terminals (Immingham) Ltd.	Queens Road, Immingham, North East Lincolnshire, DN40 2PN.
13	H1361	British Steel Ltd.	Brigg Road, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, DN16 1DN.
14	H1814	R S Logistics Ltd	Elsham Wold Industrial Estate, Nr Brigg, South Humberside, DN20 0SP.
15	H1926	Immingham Rail freight Terminals Ltd.	Kiln Lane Industrial Estate, Stallingborough, Grimsby, NE Lincs, DN41 8DF.
16	H2028	Global Shipping Services Ltd.	Kiln Lane Industrial Estate, Stallingborough, North East Lincolnshire, DN41 8DY.

17	H2039	Exolum Immingham Ltd, West Terminal	Immingham Dock West, Immingham, South Humberside, DN40 2QU.
18	H3224	BOC Limited.	Hobson Way, Stallingborough, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN41 8DZ
19	H3240	Simon Warehousing Services.	North Killingholme Cargo Terminal, Clough Road, North Killingholme, DN40 3JP.
20	H3242	Simon Storage.	Killingholme Wharfage Co Ltd, North Killingholme Haven, Grimsby, South Humberside, DN40 3JS.
21	H3245	Edward Nicholson.	East Riverside, Immingham Dock, Immingham, Grimsby, DN40 2LZ.
22	H3247	Kali (UK) Ltd.	Clough Lane, North Killingholme, Grimsby, South Humberside, DN40 3JS.
23	H3259	Potash & Continental Ltd.	Mill Lane, Brigg, North Lincolnshire,DN20 8NA.
24	H3387	North Killingholme Storage Ltd.	Lancaster House, Lancaster Approach, North Killingholme, Immingham, DN40 3JY.
25	H3502	Edward Nicholson Ltd.	North Moss Lane, Stallingborough, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN41 8DD.
26	H3549	Associated British Ports.	Robinson Road, Immingham Dock, South Humberside, DN40 2QW.
27	H3862	Solenis UK Industries Limited.	PO Box 63, Moody Lane, Grimsby, DN31 2SS.
28	H3901	Arkema Coatings Resins Ltd.	Laporte Road, Stallingborough, N E Lincolnshire, DN41 8DR.
29	H4033	Air Products (BR) Ltd.	Laporte Road, Stallingborough, NE Lincs, DN41 8DX.
30	H4144	Origin UK Operations Ltd.	Gresley Way, Immingham Dock, Immingham, NE Lincolnshire, DN40 2QQ.
31	H4222	Centrica Energy Operations Ltd.	Glanford Brigg Generating Station, Scawby Brook, Brigg, North Lincolnshire, DN20 9LT.
32	H4264	Premier Fresh Foods Ltd.	Site 26, Low Road, Cleatham, Scunthorpe, DN21 3HY.
33	H4266	The Oil and Pipelines Agency.	Stow Park PSD, Stow Park, Lincoln, LN1 2AN.
34	H4280	ABP (Hydro) Terminal.	Immingham Dock, Immingham, DN40 2NS.
35	H4299	RWE Npower Renewables.	Land adjacent to Hobson Way, Near Stallingborough, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 2TT.
36	H4310	Abengoa Bioenergy UK.	Bioethanol Plant, Hobson Way, Stallingborough, DN41 8BZ.
37	H4361	Vireol Plc	Former Acordis Site, Great Coates, Grimsby North East, Lincolnshire, DN31 2SS
38	H4371	ColePCCL UK Ltd operated by BGC Supply Chain.	Unit 8, Abbey Court, Menasha Way, Queensway Industrial Park, Scunthorpe, DN16 3RT.
39	H4405	Premier Fresh Foods Ltd.	Site 44, Howsham Road, Brigg, DN20 9HN.
40	H4466	Mr John McPhillips.	Hibaldstow Farm, Carr Lane, Hibaldstow, Brigg Lincolnshire, DN20 9PE.
41	H4611	Hook 2 Sisters Ltd.	Low Road Farm, Cleatham Low Road, Scotter, Gainsborough, DN21 4JN.
42	H4612	JG Pears (Newark) Ltd.	Low Marnham, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6SL.
43	H4873	Hook 2 Sisters Ltd.	Wrawby Farm, Star Carr Lane, Wrawby, DN20 8SG.
44	H4933	Hook 2 Sisters Ltd.	Castlethorpe Farm, Castlethorpe Bridge, Broughton, DN20 0BZ
45	H4937	Hook 2 Sisters Ltd.	Quarry Field Farm, Kirton in Lindsey, Manton, DN21 5LB
46	H4944	Air Products BR Ltd.	Land Off Queens Road, Immingham, DN40 1QT.
47	H4946	Hook 2 Sisters Ltd.	Kettleby Farm, Kettleby Lane, Kettleby, Brigg, Lincolnshire, DN20 9HG.
48	H4958	JG Pears (Property) Ltd & Geopura Ltd.	Land At Former High Marnham Power Station, Fledborough Road, High Marnham, Newark, NG23 6SH.

49	H5039	LeMond Carbon Fibre Manufacturing Facility.	1 Energy Park Way, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 2TT.

b. Major Accident Hazard pipelines:

	HSE Reference	Transco Reference	Pipeline Operator	Pipeline
1	11166	-	Uniper	Blyborough to Cottam PS pipeline
2	13555	-	VPI Immingham CHP	Immingham CHP Project Natural Gas Pipeline A
3	4140921	-	West Burton B Limited	Grayingham Offtake to West Burton B Power Station
4	7022	1293	Cadent Gas Ltd	Thornton Curtis / Ciba Geigy
5	7023	1294	Cadent Gas Ltd	Courtaulds Supply Pipe
6	7025	1296	Cadent Gas Ltd	SCM Supply Pipe
7	7026	1297	National Gas	9 Feeder North Bank of Humber / Hatton
8	7030	1301	Cadent Gas Ltd	Skitter / Thornton Curtis
9	7032	1303	National Gas	7 Feeder Blyborough / Brigg
10	7033	1304	National Gas	7 Feeder Susworth Trent East / Hatton
11	7037	1308	National Gas	9 Feeder Brocklesby / Stallingborough
12	7039	1310	National Gas	22 Feeder Goxhill / Hatton
13	7042	1313	Cadent Gas Ltd	Middlemere Road / Healing
14	7043	1314	Cadent Gas Ltd	Thornton Curtis / Middlemere Road
15	7044	1315	Cadent Gas Ltd	Scawby / Scampton
16	7045	1316	Cadent Gas Ltd	Killingholme Interlink
17	7046	1317	Cadent Gas Ltd	Killingholme / Scawby
18	7051	1322	Cadent Gas Ltd	Thornton Curtis / Butterwick East
19	7240	-	Uniper	Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal Control to Killingholme Reception Centre (20"" section)
20	9592	-	VPI Immingham CHP	Immingham CHP Project Natural Gas Pipeline B

Explosives sites

Explosives Inspectorate would need to review the explosives licence should this proposed development proceed as it falls into all the safe guarding zones of the HSE licenced explosives site in the vicinity of Immingham Dock.

Electrical Safety

No comment from a planning perspective.

At this time, please send any further communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications at nsip.applications@hse.gov.uk . We are currently unable to accept hard copies, as our offices have limited access.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]
CEMHD4 NSIP Consultation Team

Historic England

Direct Dial: [redacted]

Our Ref: PL00801419

Planning Inspectorate

2 April 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

HISTORIC ENGLAND ADVICE
Your Ref: EN0610001
Our Ref: PL00801419

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) - Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Cadent Gas Ltd (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the proposed development) Scoping Consultation

Thank you for contacting us on 6th March 2026 regarding the PINS Scoping Request for H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire. We have reviewed the documents supplied to us, as referenced below, and have the following comments to make.

- H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report Volume 1 (Chapters 1 to 7) (dated 2nd March 2026), ref. ECHN03-CN-REP-WOR-0000-10080
- H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report Volume 2 (Chapters 8 to 17 & Appendices) (dated 2nd March 2026, ref. ECHN03-CN-REP-WOR-0000-10080

We understand the Proposed Development is to construct, operate, maintain and decommission a hydrogen pipeline. The Project is part of a wider 'East Coast Hydrogen' collaboration between Cadent Gas, National Gas and Northern Gas Networks.

The Project includes the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of approximately 150 km of new pipeline to distribute hydrogen to industrial users. Alongside the new pipelines, it is currently envisaged that 25 Hydrogen Above Ground Installations (HAGIs) or Block Valve Installations (BVIs) will be required to monitor, operate, maintain and inspect the network at key points along the proposed pipeline.

Historic England Advice

Having reviewed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report, we note the principal infrastructure, as set out in Chapter 2, has the potential to have direct and indirect impacts on heritage assets. In particular, the installation of the pipeline, HAGIs and BVIs, and associated temporary works including construction compounds and access roads. These would include built heritage and buried archaeology of both designated and undesignated status.

We note the proposed study area presented within Chapter 6 'Historic Environment' is a good starting point for identifying potential impacts to heritage assets. This is demonstrated through the identified heritage assets that could be impacted by the proposed development. The further desk-based assessment and investigation proposed in Section 6.6 'Assessment Methodology' will build on this initial assessment, and we have provided the following comments below to assist with this.

Approach to Assessment

We recommend a full desk-based assessment (DBA) is conducted using available datasets to feed into the EIA and inform future surveys and evaluation that may be required. The use of multiple datasets is crucial to an effective process of heritage assessment and management of potential impacts. Portable Antiquity Scheme (PAS) data, geophysical survey, deposit modelling, aerial photo data, lidar, cartographic and documentary sources, fieldwalking, and targeted trial trenching should all be included - building an integrated picture of archaeological potential and sensitivity.

Within the assessment methodology, set out in 6.6, consideration needs to be given that not all nationally significant sites are designated and there may be undesignated sites within the draft Order Limits that are of equal significance. The detail within Table 6.6 is therefore welcomed.

Additionally, it is essential this DBA includes a comprehensive analysis of the site's geology, undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced geoarchaeologist. This geoarchaeological desk-based work should be completed prior to the design and implementation of any geophysical survey. Its findings must directly inform the selection and development of the geophysical survey methodology.

Failure to conduct this geoarchaeological assessment in advance risks the selection of inappropriate geophysical techniques. Without a clear understanding of the underlying geology, there is a significant chance that the chosen method will be ineffective in identifying buried archaeological remains that could be affected by the proposed development.

This recommended approach aligns with current sector good practice, as outlined in the following guidance:

- Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-

books/publications/geoarchaeology-earth-sciences-to-understand-archaeological-record/>

- Deposit Modelling and Archaeology: Guidance for Mapping Buried Deposits: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/deposit-modelling-and-archaeology/>
- EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology: Questions to Ask and Points to Consider: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10671298>

As general advice the earlier and more thorough site investigations that are made, the greater the ability of infrastructure projects to deploy their relatively high degree of elasticity in design such that impacts can be avoided, minimised or effectively mitigated. Where intrusive investigations focus on only the most inflexible scheme elements prior to DCO, further targeted assessment post-consent will be needed. Provided the non-intrusive work is robust and the requirements are sound, this is not in itself problematic, if understandings of archaeological significance can still be reflected in design in a proportionate manner to importance and sensitivity.

We would take the opportunity to highlight the need for an approach to setting impact to take in the kinetic views, rather than fixed viewpoints. Photomontages or visualisations would be helpful to aid the understanding of the impact to the setting of the designated and non-designated heritage assets. For a robust approach to settings impact assessment, we refer you to our published guidance at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/>.

We note that Table 6.10 and 6.11 set out the impacts scoped into and out of the proposed EIA respectively. Further information should be collated and assessed prior to making final decisions on this matter. In particular, the scoping out of direct impacts during operations and maintenance and decommissioning should consider whether these activities will be able to employ the same construction methods and access points, and therefore not impact any additional areas.

Within the Environmental Impact Assessment, where likely impacts to designated heritage assets fall below the threshold for a significant effect in EIA terms, they would still need to be reported alongside the Environmental Impact Assessment through a statement of harm as the Examining Authority will need to weigh all harm to designated heritage assets.

Proposed study area

The proposed study area for the assessment is 1km from the scoping boundary as set out in paragraph 6.5.2. Whilst this is a useful starting point, we recommend that a flexible approach is taken regarding this, and professional judgment should still be applied to include particularly sensitive/important assets beyond the fixed radius.

Additionally, the full details of the impacts from the HAGIs are not yet known and impacts on setting do not have a finite limit. We would therefore recommend that the study area for designated heritage assets is aligned with those given in paragraph 8.5.3 for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

Heritage Assets

We note the detail provided within Appendix 6A - Designated Heritage Assets - Asset Sift regarding heritage assets that are scoped in and out of the proposed EIA and wish to make the following comments.

Further consideration should be given to designated heritage assets, in line with our comments above regarding the size of the study area. In particular, the two moated sites at Healing Hall scheduled monument (NHLE ý1010947), Church of All Saints within the Brocklesby Estate (NHLE 1165503), Thornton Abbey scheduled monument (NHLE ý1011198) and associated listed buildings, and Laxton conservation and associated listed buildings and scheduled monuments. This is especially important given the potential cumulative impacts from H2East and other proposed schemes such as the Humber Carbon Capture Pipeline and Grimsby to Walpole overhead cable.

Laxton, for example, is the only place in England that has retained the medieval 'open field' system of farming under the guidance of a court leet: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/learning/laxton/introduction.aspx>

Laxton's significance extends far beyond its listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and conservation area status. It resides in the furrows, woodlands, and enduring pastures of the surrounding landscape. A living pattern of land use that has shaped-and been shaped by-a uniquely surviving form of stewardship. It is therefore concerning that the importance of this landscape, and its relationship to the designated elements of the historic environment, does not appear to be fully recognised.

The fields surrounding Laxton, which lie within the red line boundary, may hold considerable archaeological potential. As outlined in the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF), fieldwalking, targeted excavation, and earthwork, geophysical, air photographic and lidar surveys may help elucidate the origins and development of field systems and their relationship to earlier systems of land-allotment: <https://researchframeworks.org/emherf/research-strategy/high-medieval-strategic-objectives/>

Considering the uniqueness of Laxton it will be important to scope in detailed investigations to understand any potential impacts and enable them to be avoided or minimised. It will also be important to ensure that emerging insights into impacts on

the natural and historic environments are aligned.

Additionally, long views from designed landscapes should be considered, including designed views from the Registered Parks and Gardens identified on the scoping report. Therefore, further consideration should be given to the views from within the Brocklesby Estate in conjunction with the findings of the LVIA.

Any LVIA should include assessment of views from the vicinity of, and out of Thornton Abbey Gatehouse, including from upper storey windows. This assessment should then inform any potential location, design and layout of the development.

The search radius for the non-designated assets is best commented upon by the local planning authority's archaeological advisors in this instance.

Mitigation measures

We note the commitments from Appendix 4A - Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments (REAC) are set out in Table 6.9: Relevant Commitments to Historic Environment. These seem to be sensible based on currently available information and should be further considered and developed alongside an iterative EIA process.

Geophysical surveys

Regardless of the geophysical survey technique selected, it is essential to ensure that provision is made for the deposition of an appropriate range of geophysical data-not just the processed results-with a trusted digital repository that holds CoreTrustSeal certification. This is particularly important in areas where future geophysical survey work may be restricted or rendered impossible due to construction, post-construction, or decommissioning activities.

The geophysical archiving approach should align with best practice for digital data management in archaeology, as outlined in:

- Toolkit for Managing Digital Data (Dig Digital): <https://www.archaeologists.net/work/toolkits/dig-digital/introduction>

Further Comments

Further to the guidance set out in Table 6.1 and included above, we would also take the opportunity to highlight the relevance of our other published specialist guidance:

- Preserving Archaeological Remains: Decision-taking for Sites under Development: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/preserving-archaeological-remains/>
- Curating the Palaeolithic: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/curating-the-palaeolithic/>
- Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment:

Historic England

Historic England Advice Note 15: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/commercial-renewable-energy-development-historic-environment-advice-note-15/>

We also refer you to the expertise of your local government Archaeological and Heritage Advisors and District Conservation Officers.
Please copy future correspondence to e-midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk <mailto:e-midlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk>

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]
Inspector of Ancient Monuments
E-mail: [redacted]@HistoricEngland.org.uk

From: [redacted]@immingham-tc.gov.uk [redacted]@immingham-tc.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 March 2026 12:36
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: H2East Pipeline project

> You don't often get email from [redacted]@immingham-tc.gov.uk. Learn why this is important

Thank you for your letter dated 6 March 2026 regarding the proposed H2East Pipeline project and the request for comments on the scope of the Environmental Statement.

Immingham Town Council considered this matter at the council meeting on 18.03.2026

The Council has no comments on the proposed scope.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Town Clerk

Immingham Town Council

FAO: Jessica Harper
Senior Environmental Advisor
Environmental Services Infrastructure Decisions
and Applications Service
Planning Inspectorate

SSE plc
200 Dunkeld Road
Perth
PH1 3AQ

+44 (0)7493776011

27 March 2026

By email only to:
H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Application by Cadent Gas Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire – Scoping Consultation (Your Ref: EN0610001)

I am writing on behalf of Keadby Generation Limited (KGL), an SSE Group company, in response to the Planning Inspectorate's letter dated 6 March 2026 concerning the scoping consultation for the H2East Pipeline application. We note that KGL has been identified as a consultation body under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and welcome the opportunity to comment.

KGL's operational site is located approximately 8km from the scoping boundary of the proposed development. While we do not anticipate direct environmental effects on the existing operations at the KGL site arising from the H2East Pipeline, we consider that the Environmental Statement (ES) should include appropriate assessment of any cumulative impacts from future developments, particularly those associated with construction traffic.

KGL is the undertaker in respect of the Keadby 3 (Carbon Capture Equipped Gas Fired Generating Station) Order 2022. Keadby Next Generation Limited, another SSE group company, is currently promoting an alternative scheme, the Keadby Next Generation Power Station Development Consent Order. In addition, several other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are active within the wider north Lincolnshire and Humber area. Although these projects are located some distance from the H2East Pipeline scoping boundary the applicant should include these within the cumulative impact assessment to ensure a robust and comprehensive ES.

In accordance with Regulation 11(3) of the EIA Regulations, SSE will share any information in our possession that may be relevant to the preparation of the ES, should this be requested by the applicant.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Lead Consents Manager

By email to:
H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

[redacted]
Senior Infrastructure Officer
Planning Services
Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln LN1 1YL
Email:nsips@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Date: 02 April 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal: Scoping Consultation under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Cadent Gas Limited (the Applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2 East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the Development)

Thank you for your letter dated 06 March 2026 consulting Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report produced by Cadent dated March 2026.

LCC have reviewed the information in the Scoping Report and accompanying appendices and have the following comments to make in respect of the scoping boundary as shown in Figure 1.1 as it affects land within Lincolnshire County Council's jurisdiction, which is primarily associated with Section C as shown on Figure 1.1d.

Legislation, Policy and Guidance Overview (Chapter 3)

Under Section 3.4 (Local Planning Policy), paragraph 3.4.3, there is a list of the seven local authority areas where the development proposal falls within. Tables 3.1 to 3.5 list the relevant policies within each of the first five of those authorities (North East Lincolnshire Unitary; North Lincolnshire Unitary; West Lindsey District Council; Newark and Sherwood District Council; and Bassetlaw District Council, respectively), however, there are no equivalent tables listing the relevant development plan policies for Lincolnshire County Council (or Nottinghamshire County Council. The currently adopted Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan comprises: Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (Adopted June 2016); and Site Locations (Adopted December 2017). This omission will need to be rectified in subsequent reports and will need to be referenced and included in the final Scoping Opinion. For Lincolnshire, reference will also need to be made to the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan

EIA Process (Chapter 4)

Management Plans

LCC are in agreement with the general approach to EIA as outlined in this Chapter and support the proposed suite of management plans, including the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (encompassing various topic-specific plans as appropriate); a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP); a Public Access Management Plan; a Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP); a Materials Management Plan (see comments below); and a Decommissioning Plan. LCC notes the absence of an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) and considers one should be included covering the minimum period of 40 years.

LCC also seeks clarity regarding the scope of the ES and whether the ES would cover all elements of the project including decommissioning.

Cumulative effects

Section 4.6 of the Scoping Report identifies the proposed approach to cumulative effects assessment. LCC is pleased to see that both in-combination (Intra-project effects) and the cumulative effects of a number of different projects (Inter-project effects) will be considered as part of the assessment.

The study area for the assessment of inter project effects should be sufficient in extent to capture all relevant projects within the Lincolnshire geographical boundary. Currently in 4.6.4 of the Scoping Report, it is stated that the Zone of Influence (ZOI) will be defined by the relevant technical discipline team and combined into a single area within which other development will be identified. LCC will make specific references to ZOI under relevant topic chapters below, where relevant, however the Council would expect to see the wider county geography for topic areas such as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Land, haulage routes, construction/employment traffic and port deliveries, which overlap with other projects both geographically and/or temporally.

The cumulative assessment should include a long list of other developments as identified at paragraphs 4.6.5 - 4.6.6. This process should include a review of planning applications / permissions, the development plan in Lincolnshire and include other projects that are currently proposed through the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. LCC welcome the applicant's commitment to keep the initial list under review and to refine this list in consultation with local planning authorities. LCC would welcome contact with the applicant to identify those projects considered as Reasonably Foreseeable Future Projects (RFFPs).

There is the potential for significant cumulative impacts to arise from the combined effects with other schemes. For example, in respect of loss of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land and impacts on the transport network. Consideration should be given to the cumulative effects over the lifetime of the developments being assessed.

The Council would expect the ES to contain a separate chapter on the assessment of cumulative effects across the disciplines, covering both intra-project and inter-projects effects. Such a Chapter would, in addition to setting out the approach and methodology, need to clearly

identify all other relevant projects, the interrelationship between projects and the potential for cumulative effects, including any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources. It should also provide an assessment of the significance of the potential cumulative impacts identified, likely duration of the impacts (including phasing details) and mitigation measures.

Section 2.2.18 of the Scoping Report underscores the need to ensure that any assessment of cumulative effects is robust, where it recognises that in looking at route corridor alternatives and evaluation…. '*The principal influence on route corridor options are the large areas of consented solar farms located between Gainsborough and Newark*'.

Biodiversity (Chapter 5)

General comments

Chapter 5 of the Scoping Report covers ecology and biodiversity. Having reviewed Chapter 5 and other sections of the report relevant to ecology and biodiversity, and subject to the comments below, Lincolnshire County Council supports the approach to the assessment of ecological impacts.

Baseline Conditions

Study Area

Table 5.2 of the Scoping Report sets out the proposed Study Areas. A Scoping Boundary plus 10km study area for statutorily designated sites and a Scoping Boundary plus 2km study area for non-statutory designated sites and protected species records. Appropriate extensions should be made to these distances where statutorily designated sites' features include mobile species such as wintering / breeding birds or bats. Consideration should also be given to hydrological connectivity with designated sites in order to ensure that the proposed study area is appropriate to the project's Zone of Influence.

Current Baseline

Limited field surveys have been conducted at this stage of the project and information presented in the report results solely from initial desk-based studies.

A suite of important ecological sites ranging from internationally designated sites to locally important sites have been identified. The Applicant will need to identify potential impact pathways for these sites and their interest features and present an analysis of potential impacts, along with associated avoidance and mitigation measures at PEIR stage.

Desk based studies have also indicated the presence of a range of habitats and species within the study area. Surveys to establish the precise locations of these habitats and presence / absence of species will be required to identify any impacts and to inform mitigation and enhancement opportunities.

Proposed ecological surveys

Table 5.14 sets out the suite of ecological surveys that will be undertaken in support of the application. Subject to the comments below, LCC considers that the list of surveys is broadly appropriate. LCC notes that the programme will be reviewed in light of survey results, ongoing consultation and the evolution of the Project's design.

Specific comments in relation to the planned surveys are as follows:

- Given the presence of ecologically important sites designated for their importance for migratory bird populations in the vicinity of the proposal, the Applicant will need to ensure they have access to sufficient data to determine potential impacts on these populations. Consideration should be given to appropriate timing of surveys during the year to detect areas outside the designated site boundaries used by birds i.e. Functionally Linked Land. Ornithological surveys should also cover more than a single year to help ensure that results are not skewed by any particularly harsh weather patterns.

- Breeding bird surveys should be designed to ensure that species whose breeding activity may not necessarily be encompassed within the scope of a standard breeding bird survey (e.g. due to the timing of their breeding activity) are accurately recorded. Relevant species will include but may not be limited to barn owl and quail.

- LCC will expect to see a plan identifying where any TPO, veteran and ancient trees/woodlands are located within the site and showing that consideration has been given to suitable working distances within proximity to trees. The Applicant should ensure that the most up to date information is being used to assess impacts including from field surveys commissioned in support of the application.

In addition to this, the Ancient Woodland Inventory generally omits woodlands smaller than 2ha. Therefore, The Applicant should ensure that all woodlands in the zone of influence have been suitably assessed during field surveys to clarify the presence / absence of potential ancient woodland.

- Botanical surveys should be appropriately timed and targeted to detect the presence of populations of scarce arable flora within the survey area.

<u>Scope of the assessment</u>

LCC agrees with the list of potential impacts to be scoped into and out of the assessment presented in Tables 5.17 and 5.18 respectively.

<u>Assessment of Cumulative Impacts and Effects</u>

The requirement for assessment of cumulative effects is identified at 4.6 of the report. There are a number of development proposals of varying scales in the vicinity of this proposal. These range from small-scale housing developments to other NSIP scale developments. The combined implications for habitat loss, disturbance, land-use change and associated impacts on species will need careful consideration in the final DCO application.

<u>Other Ecological Assessments</u>

Given the potential for impacts on statutorily designated sites and certain protect species, the Applicant will need to provide the information reasonably required for a Habitats Regulations Assessment. The Applicant recognises this in the Scoping Report and a Preliminary Habitats Regulations Screening Report is included at Appendix 5B. The Secretary of State will need to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment and be satisfied that sufficient information has been submitted by the Applicant to enable this to be completed.

Biodiversity Net Gain

LCC notes that the Applicant states at 5.3.3 that they are currently awaiting further information from Government on how Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) will be applied to NSIPs. Section 4.6.6 of Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (December 2025) states: "*Energy NSIP proposals, whether onshore or offshore, should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity, and the wider environment where possible*." Given the scale of the proposed development LCC will expect the project to deliver a significant level of BNG.

The Applicant will need to ensure that habitat surveys are carried out to appropriate standards to allow the population of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and calculation of the level of gains achieved. The current best practice method for this is set out in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. A MoRPH assessment will be required to calculate baseline river units where watercourses (with the exception of ditches) are present in or adjacent to the proposed DCO boundary.

LCC encourages the Applicant to work with other developers and stakeholders in the area to identify opportunities to deliver BNG strategically including by keeping up to date with emerging local strategies such as the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Public consultation on a draft version of the Greater Lincolnshire LNRS[1] (https://www.glincslnrs.org.uk/) took place between 26th January and 8th March 2026 and publication of the final LNRS is expected during the summer of 2026.

Commitments to deliver BNG will need to be secured in the DCO and the Applicant will need to demonstrate that the commitments made to delivering BNG are achievable.

Future engagement and consultation

LCC welcomes further engagement with the Applicant in relation to ecology and biodiversity and confirms that LCC's Infrastructure Ecologist will be happy to engage with the Applicant during the EIA process.

Historic Environment (Chapter 6) (incorporating Archaeology and Cultural Heritage)

Archaeology

[1] Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

LCC are pleased that the scoping report recognizes that there are a range of potential impacts on archaeology in the scoping report for this development, including for example '***Chapter 13: Agriculture and Soil Resources*** *which considers soil disturbance, stripping, compaction and changes to agricultural land management that has the potential to affect buried archaeological remains and historic field systems'* (section 6.1.3).

LCC also note that the '*Historic Environment Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter will be supported by the archaeological assessment within a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) and a heritage assessment within a Heritage Statement (HS), which will provide a sufficient level of information to understand the likely significant heritage impacts. Assets above, at and below ground will be considered'* (section 6.1.14).

The ES will require comprehensive desk-based research, non-intrusive surveys, and intrusive field evaluation for the full extent of proposed impact areas. The results should be used to minimise the impact on the historic environment through informing the project design and an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation secured in the DCO.

LCC would look for a firm commitment to undertake sufficient evaluation to understand the archaeological potential of the scheme and for the results to inform an iterative approach to the design.

LCC's Archaeology and Cultural Heritage team have yet to be consulted directly by the project's historic environment consultants and we would strongly encourage engagement at the earliest opportunity.

It's vital that a competent full desk-based assessment be completed at the earliest opportunity as desk-based work provides the basis for initial understanding. This will need to be informed by and built upon by a full air photo/LiDAR assessment and geophysical survey, which in turn assists in the development of the trial trenching programme.

Sufficient field evaluation forms an essential aspect of effective project management, particularly as unevaluated areas of unknown archaeological potential leave a high degree of risk to the development given the potential for archaeology to have significant impacts on work programmes and budgets. Failing to undertake an adequate programme of field evaluation could lead to unnecessary destruction of heritage assets, potential programme delays and excessive cost increases that could otherwise be avoided.

Section 6.5.96 states that '*Following the review and analysis of the desk studies a phased programme of non-intrusive geophysical (magnetometer) surveys will be undertaken. The geophysical surveys will firstly target areas of higher archaeological sensitivity, and those areas expected to accommodate above ground infrastructure, plus those areas which did not respond greatly to the aerial photography and LiDAR assessment.'*

Before commencement of any geophysical survey, a Written Scheme of Investigation must be submitted with details of the methodology, practice and extent of the work to be undertaken and a description of what quality control mechanisms have been put in place.

Geophysical survey should be undertaken across the full extent of the Order Limits. Please do be advised that where geophysical survey is not undertaken a higher percentage of evaluation

trenching will be necessary in order to obtain sufficient baseline evidence to adequately determine archaeological potential and inform the mitigation process to deal with the development's impact within the full impact zone. It is critical that there is sufficient baseline evidence to be able to assess and understand the site-specific impact of the development on the archaeological resource.

LCC strongly recommend that the Historic England regional science advisor be contacted to inform a programme of geoarchaeological assessment.

Section 6.5.97 states that '*Specific methodologies for any non-intrusive surveys will be provided to consultees for agreement. The results of the surveys will be fed into the assessment to allow for a comprehensive assessment of the significance of effects and allow for design adjustments, where appropriate and feasible.*'

Geophysical survey and other remote survey techniques require evaluation trenching in order to determine the depth, extent, state of preservation and significance of archaeology and also to provide ground-truthing for so-called 'blank' areas where previous evaluation techniques have not identified archaeology. This is because there are types of archaeology that do not come up in desk-based assessments or geophysical survey such as burials, types of geology which may affect geophysical survey results, and later human activity such as Medieval ridge and furrow ploughing can mask earlier archaeological features. Significant areas of unexpected archaeology have been identified during the trenching phase of every other NSIP across Lincolnshire.

Archaeological evaluation including trenching results will allow us to understand where areas of archaeological sensitivity survive across the Site and should be undertaken early enough for the results to inform the iterative process. This would allow for archaeological mitigation through informed design and is essential for effective risk management, providing an understanding of the extent of archaeological mitigation fieldwork required which can then be accommodated within the work programme.

Section 6.7.4 states that '*The following principle will be used to identify archaeological receptors for assessment: Archaeological receptors within the footprint of site preparation works and the working areas associated with construction will be assessed for direct and in-direct effects.*'

Like any development adequate evaluation must be undertaken across the full impact zone resulting in sufficient baseline evidence for informed mitigation to deal with all the impacts resulting from works for this development. Where impacts on surviving archaeology are unavoidable appropriate reasonable mitigation will need to be agreed to adequately deal with the developmental impact.

Regarding *Table 6.11: Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out of the Project Assessment for Historic Environment,* section HE-07 Direct Impacts - groundworks causing the removal/ truncation of buried archaeological remains states that '*No disturbance to archaeological remains would be predicted during the decommissioning and operation and management phase.*'

LCC do not agree that this should be scoped out. Archaeological potential for the scheme has not been determined and there is potential for ground impacts during post-construction phases. Groundworks and associated impacts may be required for repairs for example. Sufficient evaluation needs to be undertaken across the Order Limits to determine the archaeological potential and in the event that preservation in situ forms part of the mitigation strategy, agreed measures will need to be put in place to ensure that these areas are protected from developmental impacts for the lifetime of the scheme, including ground disturbance, plant movement or compaction.

LCC also note that this section of Table 6.11 does not agree with section 6.8.2 in the Conclusions which states that *'On the basis of the baseline information currently available, there is potential for effects on archaeological remains arising from ground-disturbing works and on the heritage receptors through setting change as a result of construction and operation and maintenance activities.'*

In response to section 6.8.3 which states that '*where necessary, an archaeological field evaluation to refine the understanding of archaeological potential and significance'* These surveys are required and should be undertaken when the results can inform the iterative design process. This is in accordance with the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) which states that '***The results of pre-determination archaeological evaluation inform the design of the scheme and related archaeological planning conditions.'*** (footnote 94)

Please be advised that most of Lincolnshire is not suitable for trenching over the wet winter months so it is pragmatic to ensure there is sufficient time during those seasons where evaluation work, particularly trenching, can be effectively undertaken.

Sufficient information on the archaeological potential must include evidential information on the depth, extent and significance of the archaeological deposits which will be impacted by the development. The results will inform a fit for purpose mitigation strategy which will identify what measures are to be taken to minimise or adequately record the impact of the proposal on archaeological remains which must be submitted with the EIA.

This is in accordance with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 which states *"The EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner…the direct and indirect significant impacts of the proposed development on…material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape."* (Regulation 5 (2d))

Built Heritage

LCC agrees that the primary potential for effects on built heritage is likely to arise from the above-ground elements of the scheme, notably Hydrogen Above Ground Installations (HAGIs) and Block Valve Installations (BVIs). The siting of these elements will therefore be important in avoiding, as far as possible, adverse effects on the setting of heritage assets.

LCC also recognises that there is potential for temporary effects associated with the construction of the pipeline, including impacts on the setting of heritage assets during the

construction phase. While these are more limited in duration and extent, where appropriate, they should nevertheless be identified and assessed within the ES.

At this stage it is difficult to form a definitive view on likely effects, given LCC don't have the precise siting scheme design, however LCC would expect the ES to clearly distinguish between:

- largely temporary effects associated with construction of the buried pipeline and
- potential permanent effects arising from above-ground infrastructure.

Study Area

LCC considers that the proposed 1km and 2km study areas for above-ground heritage assets are appropriate at this stage, subject to a proportionate and flexible application.

In particular, the extent of cultural heritage assessment should be informed by:

- local topography and landform
- the potential for intervisibility
- the scale and positioning of above-ground infrastructure.

Where installations are in more open or elevated positions, it may be appropriate to extend the study area on a receptor-led basis. A clear explanation of how the study area has been derived would be helpful within the ES.

Identification of Heritage Assets

LCC notes that the identification of designated heritage assets, presented as a schedule within the scoping material (appendix 6A), is helpful and welcomed. LCC would expect a similar approach to the identification of non-designated heritage assets, particularly within areas where permanent above-ground infrastructure is proposed.

Historic Farmsteads and Group Value

LCC notes the prevalence of historic farmsteads within the route corridor. These assets often derive significance not only individually, but through their group value and spatial relationships within the wider landscape. Where appropriate, the ES should therefore consider:

- the identification of farmstead groups as heritage receptors
- how the introduction of above-ground infrastructure may affect their collective setting and significance.

LCC has provided NSIP guidance on this matter and would be pleased to work with the applicant to agree a suitable approach.

Wider Historic Landscape

In addition to farmsteads, LCC notes the presence of other heritage features, such as long barrows, which may form part of a wider historic landscape context. Where relevant, the ES should consider whether such assets contribute to group value or a coherent historic landscape and whether a broader, landscape-based assessment is appropriate.

Methodology and Assessment

LCC supports a receptor-led, setting-based approach to built heritage assessment, clearly distinguished from the LVIA.

The ES should set out clearly:

- how setting contributes to the significance of heritage assets
- how potential effects have been identified and assessed in a proportionate and transparent manner.

Design Development and Mitigation

Given the current level of uncertainty regarding the siting of HAGIs and BVIs, LCC considers that design evolution and embedded mitigation will be key to avoiding or minimising effects on heritage assets. Early engagement with LCC as the design develops would be welcomed to help ensure that sensitive receptors are identified and that mitigation is appropriately targeted.

Therefore, in summary, at this stage LCC is broadly supportive of the proposed scoping approach for built heritage and agrees that the focus of assessment should be on above ground infrastructure. LCC also considers the proposed study areas to be appropriate, subject to a flexible and proportionate application. However, LCC would like to highlight the importance of considering group value, particularly in relation to farmsteads and wider historic landscape features.

LCC would welcome continued engagement as the project progresses and reserves its position pending further detail on the siting and design of above-ground infrastructure.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk (Chapter 7)

LCC, in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has reviewed the Scoping Report and associated figures. Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk, Chapter 7 of the Scoping Report sets out the standard methodology proposed for assessing flood risk and related water environment considerations. At this stage LCC as the LLFA is satisfied that the Scoping Report is acceptable in providing an appropriate basis for progressing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in respect of flood risk matters.

The Applicant has indicated that an EIA will be prepared, supported by a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). LCC would expect to be engaged throughout the preparation of these technical documents in order to agree the scope of the assessments and to discuss and agree key matters such as methodology, assessment scenarios and use of suitable datasets and parameters.

At this stage, the EIA Scoping submission remains high-level, providing only indicative information and an approximate development corridor. The detailed parameters necessary to inform the above assessments have not yet been developed. Further discussions and

engagement with LCC, would be appreciated, to ensure that the scope of the technical documents, including the FRA address any concerns that the LLFA may have on this topic.

Landscape and Visual (Chapter 8)

This Review has been carried out by AAH Consultants (AAH) on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and relates to landscape and visual issues and elements only. It is based upon a review of the relevant sections of the following H2 East Pipeline scoping documents, downloaded from: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0610001/documents

- H2 East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report Volume 1; March 2026
- H2 East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report Volume 2; March 2026

While the focus of this review is on Landscape and Visual matters within the authority boundary of LCC, other information provided within the Scoping Report, and any associated Appendices, has also been considered where relevant in providing context to the Project. Figure 1.1 identifies the EIA Scoping Boundary and the associated Scoping Boundary Section Division for Sections A to D. Paragraph 8.5.10 further clarified that the Study Area will be refined throughout the EIA process "based on the preferred HAGI locations, BVI locations and refinement of the routing corridor from the Scoping Boundary to draft Order Limits". LCC have assumed this has been defined to represent the maximum extent of potential development, and LCC understand that the Scoping Boundary will also undergo refinement and subsequently be replaced by the Order Limits as the scheme progresses.

Therefore, due to this iterative design process, it is expected that further consultation will be required with the applicant in regard to agreeing the final content and detail of the landscape and visual elements of the submission, particularly if the alignment of the pipeline corridor or the location of above-ground infrastructure differs greatly from that identified within the Scoping Boundary Area.

The scheme is broken down into four sections in the Scoping Report, which provides a useful structure to navigating the scheme descriptions. Paragraph 5.5.13 identifies these as:

- Section A: Immingham and North Killingholme.
- Section B: Immingham to Scunthorpe.
- Section C: Scunthorpe to High Marnham.
- Section D: High Marnham to Kirton and Newark.

Due to the geographical scope of our review, our focus is on those parts of Sections A, B and C which fall within the Lincolnshire authority area. These areas are illustrated on Figure 5.2 and are supported by the baseline descriptions set out within Section 8.5. Based on experience of similar linear infrastructure projects in the region, the ES may also be structured to consider each section of the route separately. This does assist in any future reviews and consultation

allowing for the particular interests in this region to be focussed upon, and if this is the case, LCC request that repetition in the reports created for each stage is kept to a minimum, and common sections are referenced, such as methodology, scheme description etc. This aids the process when reviewing several sections at one time. Also, due to the volume of likely consultation information and extent of potential site visits to cover an extensive study area, LCC also request that we are afforded the maximum time available for this to aid us in providing suitable feedback.

LCC expect the production of Landscape and Visual chapters to be included within the Environmental Statement (ES), which would be in the form of separate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA), which should, along with any supporting information (such as plans, photographs, visualisations or figures), reflect current best practice and guidance from, as a minimum, the following sources:

• 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', (GLVIA3), April 2013 by the Landscape Institute (LI) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA);

• 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment', Natural England (2014);

• 'Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals', 17th September 2019 by the Landscape Institute (LI);

• 'Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 1/20 Reviewing Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) and Landscape and Visual Appraisals (LVAs)', 10th January 2020 by the Landscape Institute (LI);

• 'Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 04/20 Infrastructure', April 2020 by the Landscape Institute (LI);

• 'Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 2/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations', May 2021 by the Landscape Institute (LI); and

• 'Technical Guidance Note (LITGN) 2024-01 Notes and Clarifications on Guidelines for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Addition (GLVIA3)', August 2024 by the Landscape Institute (LI);

Overall, LCC would expect that the assessment of potential Landscape and Visual effects and evolving proposals relating to the scheme, as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), follow an iterative process of engagement and consultation to ensure the following are not fixed at this stage and are discussed, developed and agreed at subsequent technical meetings with LCC and other appropriate stakeholders:

• LVIA Methodology;

• Development, and subsequent ZTV, parameters;

• Study Area extents (distance);

• Viewpoint quantity and locations;

• Photomontage/Accurate Visual Representations (AVRs):

o Quantity and location;

o Phase depiction;

o AVR Type and Level.

• Mitigation Measures/Landscape Scheme/Site Layout;

• Cumulative effects, including surrounding developments to be considered; and

• The extent as to which a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) or initial Survey should be considered (based on the Landscape Institute TGN 2/19) if there are residential properties with receptors likely to experience significant effects to their visual amenity.

It is noted that Landscape and Visual are addressed together within Chapter 8, with separate sections provided for the assessment of landscape and visual effects. This is acceptable, and while interrelated, these effects should remain clearly distinguished within the LVIA.

We have reviewed the Scoping Report, and the following should be considered in the evolving assessment and layouts:

Methodology

As stated previously, the LVIA should be carried out in accordance with GLVIA3 and associated guidance and undertaken by suitably qualified personnel. The overview of the proposed methodology provided in paragraphs within Section 8.6 is typical of those used for ES Chapters where potential significant effects can be considered and reflects the guidance in GLVIA3. LCC would request that the most up to date technical guidance be used and the full methodology for both Landscape and Visual assessments is provided to allow further interrogation and comment at the next phases of the project.

Section 8.6 establishes the general approach for the LVIA, including the identification of receptors, the evaluation of receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change, and the subsequent determination of the significance of landscape and visual effects. The methodology distinguishes between the assessment of landscape and visual effects, while retaining a consistent overall framework for determining significance. The Landscape Impact Assessment methodology is described at paragraphs 8.6.16 to 8.6.21, while the Visual Impact Assessment methodology is described at paragraphs 8.6.22 to 8.6.25. This structure is typical for LVIA chapters prepared for infrastructure projects and is broadly consistent with the approach set out within GLVIA3.

Paragraph 8.6.15 states that the significance of effect will be derived from the combination of receptor sensitivity and magnitude of change. This is supported by Tables 8.4 to 8.8, which define the criteria for sensitivity, magnitude and the resulting levels of landscape and visual effect. Paragraphs 8.6.6 and 8.6.7 also describe the use of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) modelling to inform the identification of potential visual receptors and viewpoints, which represent a theoretical worst-case based on bare ground modelling and will be verified through field survey. This is an appropriate approach at this stage, it will be important at the assessment stage to ensure that the relationship between the ZTV outputs, field verification and the selection of representative viewpoints is clearly demonstrated.

Professional judgement is promoted throughout the Methodology, which is aligned with GLVIA 3; however, it is important that the application of professional judgement is clearly explained and transparent throughout the assessment. This is particularly important where the significance of Moderate effects is assessed, especially where these Moderate effects are judged to be Not-Significant by the author.

One point of note, regarding potential construction stage effects, paragraph 8.7.6 refers to the direct physical effects on landscape elements within the draft Order Limits including the removal of vegetation during construction activities. In addition, paragraphs 2.7.16 to 2.7.19 indicates that vegetation clearance and alteration of landform may be required along the pipeline corridor prior to construction, with reinstatement proposed following installation of the pipeline. While construction effects may be temporary in duration, the actions themselves are not temporary, vegetation removal is permanent unless the intention is to translocate, even where replacement planting or reinstatement is proposed as mitigation. While such measures may offset effects over time, the initial removal of vegetation should generally be treated as a permanent action within the assessment.

Scope of the Study Area

Section 8.5 sets out the different study areas proposed for various components of the Project. Paragraph 8.5.3 confirms that a 1 km Study Area will be applied to the pipeline corridor and a wider 2 km Study Area applied to the above-ground infrastructure, including Hydrogen Above-Ground Installations (HAGIs), Block Valve Installations (BVIs) and associated infrastructure.

The section further explains that the proposed study areas are defined in response to the nature and scale of the project components, including the temporary construction corridor and associated working areas described at paragraphs 2.7.16 to 2.7.19, which may extend beyond the pipeline alignment itself. This is particularly relevant when considering the above-ground installations which are most likely to give rise to landscape and visual effects. Paragraph 8.5.5 confirms that HAGI locations are currently identified as search areas, with a precautionary 2 km Study Area applied until final locations are confirmed. It is also noted that the locations of BVIs remain subject to further design development and risk assessment and will therefore be confirmed at a later stage, at which point a 2 km Study Area will be applied to those installations.

Paragraph 8.5.6 indicates that the tallest elements of the above-ground infrastructure are anticipated to be approximately 4m in height, with CCTV or lighting masts potentially reaching up to 6m, and notes that experience of comparable infrastructure suggests that significant effects are unlikely to occur beyond approximately 1 km for development of this scale. This provides the basis for the proposed extent of the study areas at this stage. LCC recommend that these extents are reviewed and refined as the design develops, particularly following confirmation of HAGI and BVI locations, detailed Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) modelling and field survey. While the proposed extents appear proportionate, the study area should not be fixed at this stage and should remain subject to refinement through the iterative design and assessment process. Once the study area has been confirmed, the LVIA should also provide a clear justification for the final extent/distance, demonstrating that it is proportionate and focused on those areas where significant landscape and visual effects are likely to occur.

Landscape

The landscape baseline and a range of published landscape character assessments have been identified in Section 8.5. Further detail on these character areas is provided within the baseline description, which identifies the relevant National Character Areas, local Landscape Character Assessments and landscape designations applicable across the route corridor and wider study area.

The baseline information presented in paragraph 8.5.20 to 8.5.30 provides an overview of the landscape character context through which the pipeline corridor passes, including the various landscape character areas that extend across the administrative boundaries intersected by the scheme. Figure 8.1 illustrates how these landscape character areas relate to the Scoping Boundary and provides an appropriate overview of the landscape receptors likely to be considered within the LVIA.

However, as the scheme progresses and design of the pipeline corridor and associated infrastructure is refined, LCC recommend that the baseline sources are reviewed. To align with GLVIA3, the LVIA should include an assessment of landscape effects at a range of scales and needs to include both relevant published landscape character assessments and the LVIA authors own judgements of the landscape character of the site and study area should this vary from published assessments.

The future baseline is covered in paragraphs 8.5.44 to 8.5.46. LCC note this is a landscape under increasing pressure from development, in particular consented and proposed renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure, including solar farms.

Visual

The visual amenity baseline is considered from Section 8.5 identifies a range of visual receptors including residents, recreational users, users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), users of navigable waterways, road users and rail users. The distribution of these receptors across the study area is illustrated in Figure 8.2 Visual and Recreational Receptors.

At this stage, further refinement and consultation will be required once proposals have been developed, LCC are not in a position to confirm their inclusion or omission at this stage. This is consistent with paragraph 8.7.2, which clarifies that the initial identification of receptors has been informed by desktop analysis and will be further refined by ZTV analysis, consultation and field survey work. LCC would expect that the visual assessment would clearly identify the visual receptors, which would subsequently be the focus of the visual assessment. The LVIA should not just contain an assessment of any agreed viewpoints, it must focus on receptors. The viewpoints are to illustrate the visual effects, and the visual assessment should clearly reference the receptors that will experience the representative viewpoints to aid this.

Paragraph 8.6.24 notes that cross references will be made to a visual assessment at the proposed viewpoints, and Table 8.3 confirms that visual assessment surveys will be undertaken from representative viewpoints.

The visual assessment should take account of the 'worst case scenario' in terms of maximum parameters and winter views, including effects at construction, Operational Phase (year 1),

Residual Phase with mitigation planting having established (10 to 15 years), and at the Decommissioning Phase. Paragraphs 8.5.11 to 8.5.14 confirm that these phases will be assessed and that effects will be determined at Year 0 and Year 15 to consider the effectiveness of mitigation planting.

While the majority of the pipeline will be underground, the scheme includes above ground elements including HAGIs, BVIs and associated infrastructure. Section 2.6 identify these elements and associated ancillary features. Visual effects are therefore likely to arise principally from the construction phase works and the above-ground infrastructure, rather than from the buried pipeline itself during operation. Although limited in height, these elements introduce engineered structures into the landscape, and the siting, layout and appearance of these elements will therefore be a key consideration in reducing adverse effects.

Viewpoints and Photomontages

At this early stage, no viewpoints to represent views from visual receptors have been identified. Table 8.3 confirms that visual assessment surveys will be undertaken from representative viewpoints; however, the final locations have not yet been defined. Therefore, due to the evolving design, the final locations of viewpoints are to be reviewed and subsequently agreed with LCC and other relevant stakeholders.

The final viewpoint selection should consider views of the above-ground elements, once the scheme layout is more developed. Consideration should also be given to potential key or sensitive viewpoints and visual receptors, including views from settlements, Public Rights of Way and other recreational routes where appropriate. We would welcome an initial discussion and subsequent workshop (on site if appropriate) with the applicant team in regard to proposed viewpoints.

To gain an understanding of the visibility of the scheme and how the development would appear in the surrounding landscape, Photomontages/AVRs should be produced. The number and location of the agreed viewpoints to be developed as Photomontages/AVRs should be agreed with LCC and other relevant stakeholders and produced in accordance with TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals. At this stage, it is deemed appropriate that these should be produced to illustrate the proposals at different phases: Existing Situation (baseline), Operational (year 1) and Residual with planting established (10 to 15 years). The Photomontage/AVR Level and Type, as well as which viewpoints would be developed as photomontages, is to be discussed and agreed.

Cumulative impacts

Section 8.7 sets out the proposed approach to the assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects. Cumulative Landscape and Visual effects should be assessed in regards to other major developments, particularly major energy infrastructure or renewable energy developments where these occur in sufficient proximity or scale to influence landscape character or visual amenity. This should consider both Combined (in same view) or Sequential (when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see the same or different developments) effects.

Due to the scale and geographical extent of the proposed scheme, and the wider programme of energy infrastructure and renewable energy development currently occurring across the region, the cumulative assessment will be an important component of the LVIA. In particular, the assessment should consider the interaction between the proposed development and other major energy infrastructure projects such as NSIP-scale renewable energy developments, solar farms and BESS facilities and associated energy infrastructure, where these schemes are relevant in terms of proximity, scale and visibility. The East Midlands region is undergoing a notable level of change from energy infrastructure and generation in a short timescale. The region shares several key landscape characteristics that span district, regional and national character area, such as being predominantly level to gently undulating agricultural/rural area, with big skies and sense of openness and tranquillity. This is a concern in both landscape terms through a change in land use, and also visually through the introduction of more industrial scale elements in open views. The LVIA should therefore consider how the future baseline may be influenced.

Table 8.9 sets out a range of embedded and good practice mitigation measures which are proposed to reduce landscape and visual effects, including micro-siting, vegetation retention and the use of screening. This approach is typical for projects of this nature. However, paragraph 8.7.14 indicates that these measures are being relied upon at this stage to support the scoping out of effects unlikely to result in Likely Significant Effects (LSE). While this is consistent with standard EIA practice, it will be important that the effectiveness and deliverability of these measures are clearly demonstrated at the assessment stage, particularly where they are relied upon to scope out effects. Where mitigation remains subject to further design development or is expressed as being applied 'where practicable', consideration should be given to whether a precautionary approach is required to ensure that potentially significant effects are not scoped out prematurely.

Paragraph 8.7.19 also notes the potential for interactions between landscape and visual effects and other environmental topics, including biodiversity, cultural heritage and population and communities. These interrelationships should be appropriately considered within the LVIA where landscape or visual change contributes to wider environmental effects.

Residential Visual Amenity

Residential visual amenity is considered within the visual assessment methodology in Section 8.6, which confirms that residents will be included as visual receptors within the LVIA. However, the Scoping material does not currently propose a specific Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) or define a study area for such an assessment. At this stage it is unclear whether there are residential properties with receptors likely to experience effects of such a nature or scale that an RVAA may ultimately be required. While we agree that any RVAA study area should be proportionate, if potential significant effects arise due to the scale or proximity of the above-ground elements of the scheme, these may meet the visual amenity threshold and an RVAA, based on Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2/19, may need to be considered. The scale and layout of the scheme have the potential to give rise to visual effects for local residents, particularly where above-ground infrastructure such as HAGIs, BVIs or associated infrastructure is located in close proximity to residential properties. The scheme

layout should therefore respond to potential views and proximity to nearby dwellings in order to mitigate potential adverse effects where practicable.

Mitigation and Layout

As this is an iterative process, at this stage it is not relevant to comment on any potential mitigation or layout of the development. However, best practice guidance, relevant published landscape character assessments and Local and County Council Policy and Guidance shall be referred to and implemented as appropriate.

We would also expect any landscape and planting scheme is coordinated with other relevant disciplines, such as ecology, heritage or civils (e.g. SuDS features), to improve the value of the landscape and reflect appropriate local and regional aims and objectives. Planting should be well considered and not just placed to screen proposals, as this may have an adverse effect such as appearing out of character or foreshortening open or panoramic views in this open landscape. A Landscape Scheme, supported by an associated Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan should accompany the ES which should cover as a minimum the establishment period, which is assumed would be up to 15 years to cover the period up to the residual assessment.

The management plan should provide for both new planting and existing retained vegetation and how it will be managed and protected through all phases of the development. Any vegetation loss to facilitate development, including access and wider highways works or abnormal vehicular routes for construction, must be clearly identified in the submission.

Air Quality (Chapter 9)

Lincolnshire County Council will defer to the representative district level authorities and their Environmental Health officers in terms of comments relating to air quality.

Noise and Vibration (Chapter 10)

Lincolnshire County Council will defer to the representative district level authorities and their Environmental Health officers in terms of comments relating to noise and vibration.

Traffic and Transport (Chapter 11)

After reviewing Chapter 11 of the Scoping Report, which sets out Traffic and Transport matters, LCC, as the Highways Authority (HA) considers the Scoping Report is acceptable at this early stage in relation to Traffic and Transport matters. The applicant confirmed that the EIA will be supported by a full Transport Assessment, which LCC welcomes.

As the Transport Assessment is developed, LCC expects to be closely involved in agreeing the scope and parameters of the assessment. This will include further engagement on the proposed methodology, identification of appropriate assessment years and trip rates, identification of study areas and junctions for assessment, access strategy and the assumptions regarding construction and operational vehicle routing. Early and ongoing discussions between the applicant and LCC will be essential to ensure that the TA sufficiently captures the likely transport impacts associated with both the construction and operational phases of the development. LCC notes that the current EIA Scoping Report is a very high-level document and

provides only an indicative development corridor at this stage. The detailed information required to inform the TA has not yet been prepared. LCC would therefore appreciate ongoing discussions with the applicant as the technical work progresses, to ensure that all relevant transport considerations are addressed and agreed with LCC.

Agriculture and Soil Resources (Chapter 13)

A review of Agricultural and Soil components of the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report: March 2026 has been carried out by Paul Wright and Peter Danks of Reading Agricultural Consultants Ltd, as instructed by Lincolnshire County Council.

With respect to large-scale infrastructure development projects such as H2East, generally speaking LCC's concerns are principally associated with:

- Cumulative loss of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land;
- Temporary and permanent loss of highly productive food-producing agricultural land used for a wide range of food crops including arable and high value horticultural crops;
- The location of HAGIs and BVIs in relation to agricultural land and operations;
- Potential long-term damage to soil function;
- Damage to agricultural drainage systems.

It is in this context that the review of the EIA Scoping Report has been undertaken, with consideration given to how the project proposes to address these concerns.

Consideration of Alternatives (Section 2.2)

This section provides a clear and reasoned justification for the selected Strategic Option (3) and the Route Corridor Alternative (1), the latter being the shortest.

Construction of the project (Section 2.7)

An overview of techniques for laying pipes and soil reinstatement are described. Temporary construction compounds will be decommissioned and land reinstated to its former condition. These are all largely generic, but adequate for a Scoping Report.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will set out the principles and procedures for the environmental management of the Project during construction. The CEMP, in outline form (oCEMP) will be developed alongside the EIA process as a key construction mitigation document that will form part of the DCO. The oCEMP will then be finalised and approved as part of the discharge of DCO Requirements.

Whilst it is proposed to focus pipeline construction on the spring and summer months in order to reduce impacts on agricultural land, it is imperative that the oCEMP describes other measures taken to mitigate the risk of damage to soils that would result from working in unsuitable conditions.

Decommissioning (section 2.9)

The design life of the pipeline is 40 years but it is anticipated that the actual life of the pipeline could extend well over 40 years, depending on ongoing monitoring of pipeline integrity, routine maintenance and upgrading where required. On decommissioning, the buried pipes will be left in the ground, to avoid additional disturbance. Above ground structures will be removed and the land restored to its former use.

Agriculture and Soil Resources Chapter

Introduction (section 13.1)

The Agriculture and Soil Resources chapter outlines the approach to the soils and agriculture in the EIA, setting out the methodology, data sources and baseline conditions to be used in the assessment. It will consider the potential effects upon soil carbon, structural damage to soil resources, loss of soil resources and the loss of land from agricultural use. Such impacts and effects may arise from the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Project. The means of assessment described are considered sufficiently comprehensive to produce a robust assessment of the impacts of the proposed development.

Assumptions and Limitations (Section 13.2)

The working width for laying the pipeline will vary, depending on the pipe diameter and may be up to 50 m. As the width and line of the working corridor are not yet confirmed, the scope describes a worst-case assumption that the working width is 50 m along the entire route of the pipeline. The working width will include the footprint of the pipeline trench, temporary topsoil, upper subsoil (header soil) and subsoil storage stores, and temporary access tracks for the trenching works. This working method will require topsoil stripping and soil protection along the entire working width.

Materials will be stored at the edge of the works in accordance with best practice. Bunds will typically be limited to 2m in height in order to mitigate damage through compaction and anaerobic activity, though may be higher (not exceeding 3m), subject to soil condition surveys to establish soil characteristics, ensuring there is no excessive soil compaction or visibility restrictions. Pipeline construction will generally be focused on the spring and summer months (March to September). All these commitments are adequate for a Scoping Report.

Relevant Legislation, Policy and Technical Guidance (Section 13.3)

The documents described represent a comprehensive summary of relevant legislation, policy and technical guidance referring to soils and agriculture.

Consultation (Section 13.4)

Consultees are listed. In respect of Agriculture and Soil Resources, initial discussions have taken place with Natural England and the local planning authorities, and further consultation will be undertaken following the formal EIA scoping process. The aim of this further consultation will be to seek clarification on further details, to discuss findings, and to reach agreement on issues prior to submission of the application.

Baseline (Section 13.5)

The Review is comprehensive and takes into account both mineral and organic soils, covering productivity and soil carbon as well as the soil resource. No indication is given of any baseline assessment of soil health, which would be required in order to assess impacts and identify possible remediation post-development. The documents referred to are comprehensive and the descriptions of soils appropriate. The descriptions of soil survey methodology are appropriate.

Assessment (Section 13.6)

The proposed assessment methodology aligns with good practice as reflected in EIAs for linear developments on a similar scale.

Scope (Section 13.7)

The proposed approach to scoping aligns with current good practice as reflected in EIAs for linear developments on a similar scale. Whilst the proposed scope sets out best practice for the avoidance of damage to soils, the lack of a baseline assessment of soil health makes it impossible to make any valid comparison of soil health status before and after the development. The assessment of soil health is helpful when considering claims of damage post-development. The scoping out of damage to land drainage systems is acceptable, provided that the CEMP and SMP include adequate methodologies for the identification and rectification of damage to drains during and immediately post-construction.

General comments

Developers working on linear developments such as the proposed H2East project, often appoint an Agricultural Liaison Officer (ALO) experienced in agricultural matters to address any issues arising from landowners/farmers in a timely manner. The provision of a knowledgeable single source of information and contact who can represent the developer in discussions between stakeholders and contractors can be very beneficial. Land restoration and appropriate aftercare can be agreed with the landowner before construction commences. Details can be discussed prior to start of restoration works, with any scheme for necessary land drainage repairs, alterations or new installation agreed at the appropriate time.

Population and Communities (Chapter 14)

Public Health

The Scoping Report Chapter 14 (paragraphs 14.6.17 -18)includes a very brief section on the 'Effects on Physical and Mental Health' that identifies there is potential for the Project to affect human health and refers to other chapters such as Landscape and Visual, Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, and Traffic and Transport. Whilst LCC appreciates that there are interrelated chapters which will discuss impacts on human health, it is important that the ES includes, as a minimum, a human health chapter that brings together the impacts on human health from each relevant chapter within the ES.

It is disappointing to see that, in Table 14:30 Impacts Proposed to be Scoped Out of the Project Assessment for Population and Communities, the *"increase in mental health burden – potentially reaching allostatic load (impact of stress, affecting how the body maintains stability)*

over unmanaged expectations or concerns about the Project" has been scoped out. The justification states that *"the underlying basis for fear is limited and, while concern over safety is inherently rational, safety is an overriding priority for the Project and use of hydrogen is highly regulated (in a similar way to similar industries using hazardous technologies controlled to protect against potential harm)."* Local communities are likely to have a negative perceived risk of the Project, including concerns and fears of explosions, fire, leaks, and asphyxiation, meaning the perceived risks would require attention. In addition, the effect on landscape and visual amenity is also likely to lead to adverse mental health outcomes. Therefore, mental health impacts do not appear to have been adequately addressed and should be scoped in.

Furthermore, LCC would expect the human health chapter in the ES to outline how the development might enhance the health and wellbeing of the population. For example, enhancements to the public rights-of-way network, with new habitats created alongside walking routes to increase biodiversity. Public Health would also like to see a commitment to apply the principles of a rapid desktop Health Impact Assessment (HIA) when writing the human health chapter of the ES.

A Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) to consider the potential significant effects that could arise as a result of the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project is welcomed. LCC agrees that the context of other developments needs to be considered and welcome the inclusion of existing, consented, or application-stage developments, particularly given the number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) proposed across Lincolnshire, including the Cottam and Tillbridge solar farm projects and associated electricity transmission infrastructure.

Finally, LCC would highlight that the UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) should be consulted once the ES has been produced for their comments.

Socio-economic

Assumptions and limitations

The use of a worst-case working parameters (paragraph 4.3.7) for the undertaking of the environmental assessment is welcomed.

Within section 14.2 it is recommended that the availability of temporary workforce data from other NSIPs is included. The data is not available for all projects, and can impact upon the assessment of cumulative impacts, especially the projected availability of overnight accommodation for temporary workers.

Spatial Scope

At para 14.5.4, the wider 5 km study area to capture tourism and accommodation demands to consider all suitable accommodation likely to be utilised by the construction workforce is welcomed. However, as will be discussed further in this response, the cumulative impacts of temporary workforces associated with NSIP construction, and potential overlap in construction periods is of significant concern to the Council and will need to be considered fully.

Current Baseline

A relatively minor point, within table 14.21, Norbanby by Stow should be corrected to Normanby by Stow. Similarly, at table 14.22 Narwark Castle should be corrected to Newark Castle.

Assessment Methodology

Changes in Local Service demand - Given the likelihood of cumulative impacts in relation to the number of temporary workers from overlapping NSIP construction periods, and the acknowledgement at para 14.6.13 that the workforce will be drawn from across the UK, mention should be made to acknowledge that there will be cumulative impacts. This is not restricted to schemes within Lincolnshire County Council's authority area but also surrounding areas.

Scope of the Assessment

It is recommended that the following is added to the list of key receptors at para 14.7.2, to reflect the likely impact on overnight accommodation capacity.

"Tourist facilities and attractions, and overnight accommodation"

The council disagree, in part, with reference to PCH14 in Table 14.30 (Decreased social cohesion) being proposed to be scoped out. As discussed throughout this response, there are concerns regarding the impacts on overnight accommodation that are likely to arise as a result of the number of NSIPs within the county and surrounding areas. It is LCC's view that it would be short-sighted to scope this matter out at this stage.

Cumulative Effects

There are currently 23 NSIPs within the LCC authority area. It is therefore imperative that cumulative impacts are fully considered and assessed. It is considered that the assessment of cumulative impacts (in respect of population and community impacts and how they interrelate with other environmental impacts) considers the following:

- Overnight accommodation and capacity
- Public Rights of Way, including the potential for routes to be intersected by more than one NSIP
- Landscape and visual amenity
- Noise, especially where this proposed project will intersect with others
- Traffic, as it is highly likely that there will be overlap in construction periods resulting in a higher level of traffic increase than would be expected for just this project.

The long list of nearby projects at para 4.6.6 sets out the nearby NSIPs that will be considered through the cumulative impact assessment. It would be helpful to see the NSIPs within this list mapped out to understand the spatial interrelationships between the projects. It should be noted that the preferred route for this project will cross through the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park at two points (assuming it is approved). While not within Lincolnshire County Council area, it is expected that the impacts of this will be considered in full by the applicant.

Major Accidents and Disasters (Chapter 15)

Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue (LFR) has reviewed the Scoping Report and with reference to section 15.4 (Consultation) of the Scoping Report requests to be included in the continued consultation with key stakeholders as the H2 East Project progresses. LFR will require a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan to be developed and managed throughout the lifetime of this development and shared at an early stage, the applicant's commitment to develop such a plan is noted in table 15.7 of the Scoping Report.

LFR advise that the plan should include, but not be limited to:

- Full details of all site locations associated with the project.
- The proposed pipeline route, including depth of pipework.
- Information regarding all Hydrogen Above Ground Installations (HAGIs), including their locations, design, and any associated hazards.
- Any additional emergency information relevant to operational response, such as site access arrangements, emergency contacts, isolation points, and shut-off mechanisms.

The above information is essential to ensure LFR crews can prepare for and respond effectively to any incident involving the proposed infrastructure.

Other topics

Minerals and Waste

It is noted from the Scoping Report that no specific chapter/s are proposed relating to Minerals and Waste, but both topics are referenced at various points within the document, predominantly within Chapter 12 (Ground Conditions). In Chapter 12, there is reference to the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (in contrast to Chapter 3, section 3.4, where relevant policies are not listed – see above comments under Chapter 3). However, whilst there is reference to safeguarding policy M11 (Safeguarding of mineral resources), policies M12 (Safeguarding of Existing Mineral Sites and Associated Minerals Infrastructure) and W8 (Safeguarding Waste Management Sites) are not mentioned. This similarly applies to the tables in Appendix 3A (Planning Policy Summary).

There are a number of existing mineral sites that fall within LCC area that also lie within the Scoping boundary, notably Corringham Oilfield (noted at 12.5.70) and Kettleby Quarry, to the east of Brigg, at the northern tip of the County Council area (falling within Section B). The Scoping boundary also encapsulates part of a site allocation area for Kettleby Quarry. For Corringham Oilfield, reference should also be made to the fact that the site sits within a site specific Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA), which has direct relevance to policy M12, which needs to be included in the section on applicable policies.

Similarly, there are a number of waste sites that fall within the scoping boundary, e.g. Upton STW, Kettleby Quarry Waste Site and Sturgate Airfield (to the east-southeast of Gainsborough).

In relation to safeguarding, LCC would request that the applicant demonstrates that all safeguarded sites, allocations and mineral safeguarding areas are comprehensively reported on and referenced to all relevant local plan policies, which must include policies M12 and W8 as well as M11. Where any conflict between the development proposal and interaction with areas affected by these policies exists, then LCC will expect that a Minerals Assessments will be undertaken as appropriate.

Waste Management

LCC welcomes the inclusion of various information under the heading of "materials and waste" and elsewhere in the Scoping document. In particular:

Paragraph 2.7.67 (doc1, p2-35) – Commits that "*the ES will provide a description of the broad types and quantities of materials required by the Project, along with a description of the waste types and quantities that are anticipated to be produced during construction*" and that "*the ES will provide a list of waste management facilities within the surrounding area, setting out the types of waste that can be accepted and available capacity*".

Paragraph 4.5.14 (doc1, p4-11) – Commits that "*a strategy for the management of materials and waste will be developed for the Project and presented within an outline Materials Management Plan (oMMP) that will be provided with the application for Development Consent*".

The Council will continue to engage with this proposal as required. Should there be any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

For [redacted]
Head of Planning

Appendix 1

Lincolnshire County Council

NSIP Historic Environment Guidance:

Group Value Assessment of Historic Farmsteads (Three-stage framework)

For citation purposes, please refer to this document as: Historic Places Team, Lincolnshire County Council (2026), Historic Farmsteads Group Value Framework for NSIPs.

Existing guidance, including the Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Character Statement and accompanying Farmstead Assessment Framework, focuses primarily on the assessment of individual farmsteads and their immediate setting. A supplementary group value framework has therefore been applied to consider the collective heritage value of historic farmsteads within the study area.

The framework draws on established heritage assessment practice, including Historic England's *Conservation Principles*, GPA3 and the CIfA/IEMA/IHBC *Principles for Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment* and adapts the familiar value × magnitude = significance approach for application to clusters of farmsteads and their shared setting.[2]

The assessment is receptor-led with the historic farmsteads and associated components forming the receptors. It considers effects on their immediate and wider setting where that setting contributes to their significance. It is not a landscape or visual impact assessment and does not treat views or landscape character as receptors in their own right.

The framework provides a proportionate and transparent method for assessing the collective significance of historic farmsteads and for evaluating the potential effects of the Proposed Development on their legibility, coherence and understanding as part of a wider historic farming landscape.

Group value is designation-neutral and is defined on the basis of historic-functional and spatial coherence, irrespective of whether individual buildings are designated. Designation informs policy weighting at the final stage rather than group membership.

The approach reflects established good practice in the assessment of historic farmstead clusters within recent large-scale renewable energy schemes in Lincolnshire

[2] Historic England (2008) *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*; Historic England (2017) *The Setting of Heritage Assets: Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (GPA3)*; Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) (2021) *Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK*, Joint professional guidance: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfA-IEMA-Principles-Cultural-Heritage-Impact-UK_2021.pdf.

and is intended to promote consistency and transparency in how group value is addressed.

1. Group Heritage Value (collective importance)

Group Heritage Value	Description
High	Cluster of farmsteads retains strong historic coherence (survival of shared historic field systems; limited boundary loss; high survival of original farmstead plan-forms and yard relationships, survival of traditional building fabric and demonstrable shared agricultural narrative). Clear evidential, historic and aesthetic value as a group.
Medium	Group demonstrates partial coherence, some alteration such as modern sheds or boundary loss but still provides a legible pattern of historic farmed landscape. Evidential and aesthetic value remain appreciable.
Low	Group has fragmented coherence; setting has been eroded but the survival of multiple farmsteads still provides some cumulative illustration of past rural economy / historic agricultural practice
Very Low	Little or no collective value beyond individual assets; group context weak or absent.

2. Magnitude of Impact on Group Value:

Magnitude of Impact	Description
High	Development causes comprehensive or substantial change in the ability to understand the historic-functional relationships between the farmsteads and their shared agricultural setting; disrupts the legibility of historic field patterns and land use; fundamentally alters ability to experience the farmsteads as a coherent group.

Magnitude of Impact	Description
Medium	Development causes noticeable change to parts of the group's setting and the legibility of historic field patterns and land use and/or partially reduces appreciation of the historic relationships between the farmsteads, diminishing but not wholly removing legibility of the shared agricultural character.
Low	Development introduces slight changes in setting and/or a minor reduction in the ability to understand historic-functional relationships; group coherence remains appreciable though subtly eroded.
Very Low	Minor changes only, negligible effect on collective appreciation of farmsteads and little or no impact on understanding their historic-functional relationships.
No Change	No discernible effect on the group value.

3.Significance of Effect (Group):

(adapting the individual asset framework but applied at group scale)

Group Heritage Value → / Magnitude of Impact ↓	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
High	Major Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Negligible
Medium	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Negligible	Neutral
Low	Minor Adverse	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral
Very Low	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

The framework should be applied by first identifying coherent groups of historic farmsteads and associated agricultural components, based on their historic-functional and spatial relationships and their shared setting, irrespective of the designation status of individual assets. An overall level of group heritage value should then be assigned,

followed by an assessment of the magnitude of the Proposed Development's impact on that group value.

A group should only be identified where there is demonstrable evidence of historic-functional and spatial relationships which may include:

- Survival of shared or interrelated historic field patterns or boundary systems;
- Functional relationships evidenced through historic mapping, documentary sources or farmstead typology;
- Shared access routes, trackways, water management features or yard relationships;
- Spatial proximity such that the farmsteads formed part of a recognisable historic farming landscape

The significance of effect should be derived using the value × magnitude matrix set out above. Group value is designation-neutral; however, where a group includes designated heritage assets, the resulting effect should be considered in light of the relevant statutory duties and higher policy tests. This policy weighting does not alter the basis on which the group is identified or valued (i.e. designated heritage assets within a group should not be used to increase the assessed level of group heritage value or the significance of effect at group scale).

The assessment should clear ly explain how the Proposed Development would affect the legibility, coherence and understanding of the farmsteads as a group, including the contribution made by their immediate and wider setting to their collective significance.

The framework does not replace the assessment of effects on individual heritage assets but provides a complementary means of considering collective significance at group scale.

The proposed grouping of farmsteads and the extent of any group assessed, should be clearly defined and agreed with LCC at an early stage.

Selected Reference List:

Greater Lincolnshire Farmsteads Guidance (2015), *Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Character Statement*. Historic England, by Adam Partington, Alastair MacIntosh and Jeremy Lake: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/greater-lincolnshire-farmstead-character-statement/

Historic England (2015), *National Farmstead Assessment Framework*. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/national-farmstead-assessment-framework/

Historic England (2008), Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles/

Historic England (2017, 2nd ed.), The Setting of Heritage Assets: Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (GPA3): https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) and Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) (2021)

Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK, Joint professional guidance: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2024-11/CIfA-IEMA-Principles-Cultural-Heritage-Impact-UK_2021.pdf

Marine
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H2 East Project Case Team
Planning Inspectorate
H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.
(Email only)

MMO Reference: DCO/2026/00004
Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN0610001

02 April 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the "EIA Regulations") – Regulations 10 and 11.

MMO Scoping response on the application by Cadent Gas Limited (the "Applicant") for an Order granting Development Consent for the, H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the "Proposed Development)

1.1. This document comprises the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) response in respect of the above Development Consent Order application.

1.2. This is without prejudice to any future representation the MMO may make about the DCO Application throughout the *pre-application process.* This is also without prejudice to any decision the MMO may make on any associated application for consent, permission, approval or any other type of authorisation submitted to the MMO either for the works in the marine area or for any other authorisation relevant to the proposed development.

2. The MMO's role in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

2.1. The MMO was established by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA 2009) to make a contribution to sustainable development in the marine area and to promote clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

2.2. The responsibilities of the MMO include the licensing of construction works, deposits and removals in English inshore and offshore waters and for Northern Ireland offshore waters by way of a marine licence. Inshore waters include any area which is submerged at mean high water spring (MHWS) tide. They also include the waters of every estuary, river or channel where the tide flows at MHWS tide. Waters in areas which are closed permanently or intermittently by a lock or other artificial means against the regular action of the tide are included, where seawater flows into or out from the area.

2.3. In the case of NSIPs, the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) enables DCOs for projects which affect the marine environment to include provisions which deem marine licences.

As a prescribed consultee under the 2008 Act, the MMO advises developers during pre-application on those aspects of a project that may have an impact on the marine area or those who use it. In addition to considering the impacts of any construction, deposit or removal within the marine area, this also includes assessing any risks to human health, other legitimate uses of the sea and any potential impacts on the marine environment from terrestrial works.

2.4. Where a marine licence is deemed within a DCO, the MMO is the delivery body responsible for post-consent monitoring, variation, enforcement and revocation of provisions relating to the marine environment. As such, the MMO has a keen interest in ensuring that provisions drafted in a deemed marine licence (DML) enable the MMO to fulfil these obligations.

2.5. Further information on licensable activities can be found on the MMO's website here. Further information on the interaction between the Planning Inspectorate and the MMO can be found in our joint advice note 11 Annex B here.

3. The Proposed Development

3.1. The Proposed Development comprises the construction and operation of a gas transporter pipeline from production facilities at North Killingholme on the River Humber to industrial users across North Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

3.2. The Pipeline will consist of approximately 150km of underground high pressure steel pipeline with connections for users and a number of Hydrogen Above Ground Installations along the route of the pipeline. The pipeline route includes crossings of the River Trent

4. General Comments

4.1. The MMO were first made aware of scoping request upon receipt of the Planning inspectorate consultation letter under Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 Regulations 10 and 11 on 06 March 2026.

4.2. The MMO has powers under the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended) to charge for its services in relation to any advice, information or other assistance (including a response to a consultation) provided in connection with:

- an application or proposed application, for an order granting development consent, and
- an application/proposed application to make a change to, or revoke, such an order, and
- any other prescribed matter relating to NSIPs, including both statutory and non-statutory work.

4.3. MMO has contacted the Applicant, and an 'enquiry' was submitted on our online Marine Case Management System (MCMS). This is to allow MMO to issue an estimate for review of the Environmental Statement documents, which may include scientific advice from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), and to provide formal advice on potential marine licence requirements under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. That estimate must be accepted before MMO are able to proceed with any review. To date this action has not been taken which means we are currently unable to provide a detailed response. The MMO is working with the Applicant to agree estimates.

4.4. A generic high level scoping opinion often applied to large scale projects is attached to this letter. It may be that no elements of the project fall within MMO jurisdiction under MCAA 2009, however we are unable to confirm this until an enquiry is submitted and an estimate is agreed. There is a risk that without formal advice from the MMO, the project is at potential risk of enforcement action should it proceed with activities within MMO jurisdiction (the marine environment in English waters) without the appropriate approvals.

4.5. It is the applicant's responsibility to identify any marine licensable activities that will be undertaken and to apply for a deemed Marine Licence as part of this DCO application. Alternatively, the applicant can apply for a separate marine licence consent directly from the MMO.

4.6. The MMO will provide the applicant with a specific scoping response, and a copy will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate, once the estimate has been accepted.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
[redacted]
Marine Licencing Case Officer

D [redacted]
E [redacted]@Marinemanagement.org.uk

Annex 1 - Marine Licensing, Wildlife Licences and other permissions

Please be aware that any works within the Marine area require a licence from the Marine Management Organisation. It is down to the applicant themselves to take the necessary steps to ascertain whether their works will fall below the Mean High Water Springs mark.

Marine Licensing Works

Activities taking place below the mean high-water mark may require a marine licence in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009. Such activities include the construction, alteration or improvement of any works, dredging, or a deposit or removal of a substance or object below the mean high water springs mark or in any tidal river to the extent of the tidal influence. Should a deemed marine licence be included within the NSIP then this should be clearly set out and assessed.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The topics the MMO can provide advice on are:

- Coastal/Marine Processes
- Dredge, disposals, sediment survey requirements and chemical use
- Benthic ecology
- Fisheries ecology
- Shellfish ecology
- Underwater Noise

Marine Planning

Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 ch.4, 58, public authorities must make decisions in accordance with marine policy documents and if it takes a decision that is against these policies it must state its reasons. The Secretary of State will have to take this into account as part of the process and if the project is within a Marine Plan area this should be fully assessed in a standalone table as part of the policy and legislation section. Proposals should conform with all relevant policies, taking account of economic, environmental and social considerations.

Minerals and waste plans and local aggregate assessments

If you are consulting on a mineral/waste plan or local aggregate assessment, the MMO recommend reference to marine aggregates is included and reference to be made to the documents below;

- The Marine Policy Statement (MPS), section 3.5 which highlights the importance of marine aggregates and its supply to England's (and the UK) construction industry.
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which sets out policies for national (England) construction minerals supply.

- The Managed Aggregate Supply System (MASS) which includes specific references to the role of marine aggregates in the wider portfolio of supply.
- The National and regional guidelines for aggregates provision in England 2005-2020 predict likely aggregate demand over this period including marine supply.

The NPPF informed MASS guidance requires local mineral planning authorities to prepare Local Aggregate Assessments, these assessments have to consider the opportunities and constraints of all mineral supplies into their planning regions – including marine. This means that even land-locked counties, may have to consider the role that marine sourced supplies (delivered by rail or river) play – particularly where land-based resources are becoming increasingly constrained.

Fees

The MMO has powers under the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended) to charge for its services in relation to any advice, information or other assistance (including a response to a consultation) provided in connection with:

- an application or proposed application, for an order granting development consent, and
- an application/proposed application to make a change to, or revoke, such an order, and
- any other prescribed matter relating to NSIPs, including both statutory and non-statutory work.

For any statutory work undertaken by the MMO throughout the NSIP process, staff time will be charged at the current rate of £122 per hour.

From 1 May 2024 the MMO began charging for all statutory work done in the NSIP process, which includes responding to post application documents, Section 56 consultations, attendance at examinations and providing written representations in examinations.

For non-statutory or discretionary work undertaken by the MMO during the NSIP process staff time will be charged at the current rate of £122 per hour plus VAT.

The MMO will also charge for any work done by any third-party scientific advisors in relation to NSIP work. This is most often work done by Cefas at the current rate of £116.38 per hour.

Post consent monitoring, discharging of requirements under Deemed marine licences (DML) or variations to DMLs are chargeable by virtue of powers the MMO has under The Public Bodies (Marine Management Organisation) (Fees) Order 2014 and this work is currently charged at the rate of £94 per hour.

You will receive an estimate of the number of hours required for MMO and Cefas hours for all work needed on your NSIP project. Fee estimates may be broken down depending on the stage your project is at in the NSIP process. The estimated hours are multiplied by the appropriate hourly rate to give an estimated fee. You must accept the terms quoted before we can progress.

Final charges invoiced by the MMO and Cefas are based upon actual hours worked, not the original estimate.

The staff time spent on your NSIP project is recorded in units of 15 minutes with a minimum of 15 minutes for each item of work.

The MMO case managers monitor your NSIP project weekly to assess how many more case hours are needed. If the estimated final cost is likely to be significantly different from the actual final cost, you will be notified in good time. You will also receive an explanation of the circumstances and an updated estimate. You will also be informed when more than 90% of the estimated total number of hours has been used.

Please refer to our published guidance for a detailed summary of fees for marine licensing and associated work here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/marine-licensing-fees/marine-licensing-fees

Please also refer to additional government guidance regarding cost recovery by certain prescribed public authorities such as the MMO in relation to NSIPs here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-infrastructure-planning-fees-regulations-2010-cost-recovery-by-the-planning-inspectorate-and-public-authorities

If you require further guidance on the Marine Licencing process, please visit https://www.gov.uk/topic/planning-development/marine-licences

[redacted]
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Bay 2/24
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

www.gov.uk/mca

Your Ref: **EN0610001**

30th March 2026

Via email: H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Cadent Gas Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the proposed development)

H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire Scoping Report

Thank you for your email dated 6th March 2026, inviting comments on the Scoping Report for the proposed H2East gas transporter pipeline development. The Scoping Report has been considered by representatives of Marine Safety and PNT Services at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), and the MCA would like to respond as follows:

We note that the project involves the installation and commissioning of a new pipeline between Humber and Nottinghamshire which would connect to newly constructed hydrogen production plants at North Killingholme and High Marnham, and includes (but is not limited to):

- 150km of high-pressure steel gas transporter pipeline and associated user connection spurs
- Numerous Hydrogen Above-Ground Installations along the route of the pipeline
- Trenchless crossing of the River Trent and other major infrastructure networks
- Open-Cut crossing of minor rivers

The MCA has an interest in the works associated with the marine environment, and the potential impact on the safety of navigation, access to ports, harbours, and marinas, and any impact on our search and rescue obligations.

1) We note that the project will fall under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, which will cover all installation, commissioning, operational, maintenance, and decommissioning activities of the Development. It will be promoted as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the provisions of the Planning Act 2008. As such, it is intended that Cadent Gas Limited will submit a DCO application.

2) The study area crosses the catchment of several watercourses, including main rivers, which may affect the safety of navigation and other marine users. The applicant should clarify whether the proposed sections of the River Trent fall within the jurisdiction of a Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA), such as ABP Humber for the River Trent, as SHAs are responsible for maintaining the safety of navigation within their waters. The relevant SHA should therefore be consulted on any proposed works within their jurisdiction. The MCA encourages the applicant to work closely with the relevant SHAs to develop a robust Safety Management System (SMS) for the project, in accordance with the Ports and Marine Facilities Safety Code (PMSC) and its associated Guide to Good Practice, to ensure that risks and impacts on other marine users are reduced to As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP).

3) We recommend that the applicant engages with the Canal & River Trust (CRT) regarding any potential impacts on rivers within their jurisdiction, and we welcome the intention to consult the CRT as noted. We also recommend contacting any local navigation authorities responsible for smaller rivers affected by the pipeline installation. This will ensure that all relevant authorities are consulted about proposed river-crossing works and local river users are kept informed; particularly where river closures or temporary damming may be required. We note from Chapter 12 of the Scoping Report that 'the route of the pipelines will be consulted upon with relevant stakeholders, for example the Canal & River Trust and the Environment Agency', which we welcome.

4) The Environmental Statement (ES) should supply details on the possible impact on navigational issues for both commercial and recreational craft, specifically:
    - Visual intrusion and noise
    - Risk Management and Emergency Response
    - Marking and lighting of the site and information to mariners
    - Effect on small craft navigational and communication equipment

5) The MCA would expect any works below the Mean High-Water Level (MHWL) to be considered under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and be subject to marine licensing. We understand that the Marine Management Organisation will be consulted as part of the project which we welcome. Consideration should be given to any potential impact on other marine users as the project progresses. Risks can likely be suitably mitigated at the formal marine licensing application stage. On this occasion, the MCA has no significant concerns regarding the safety of navigation and considers the overall risk to be relatively low, provided that all relevant maritime safety legislation is fully complied with.

I hope you find this information useful at this Scoping Stage.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Marine Licensing and Offshore Consenting Lead
Marine Safety and PNT Services

Melton Borough Council
Helping people | Shaping places

Environmental Services
Infrastructure Decisions & Applications Service
Planning Inspectorate
c/o Quadient
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough, SL1 4PN

Attention of Jessica Harper

H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

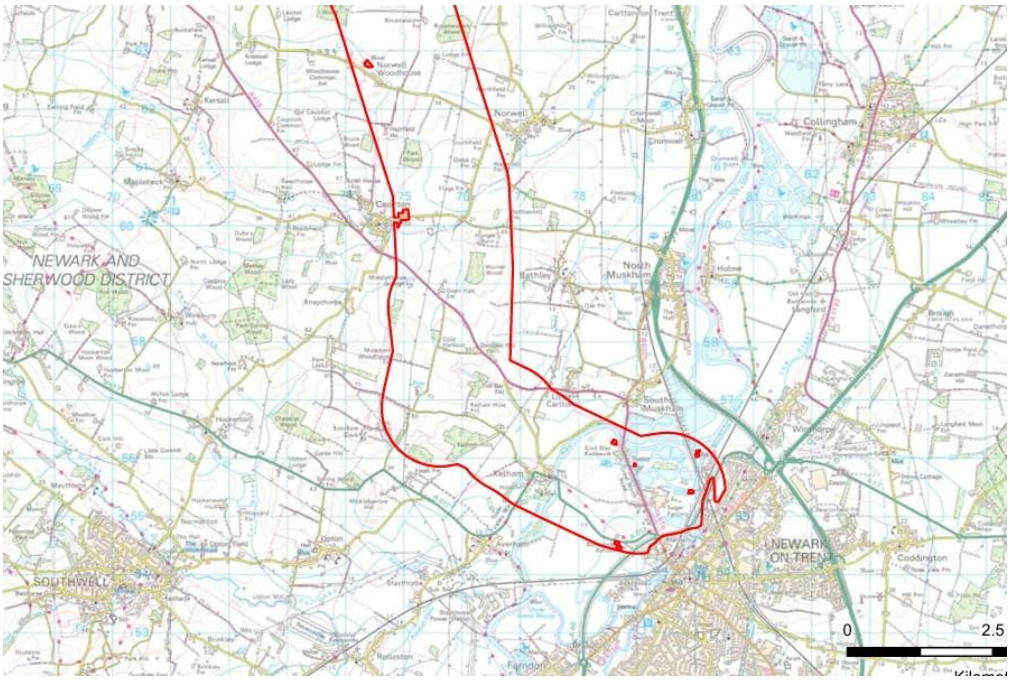
PINS ref: EN0610001
MBC ref: 26/00213/NEI
Case officer: [redacted]
Tel: [redacted]
Date: 24th March 2026

Dear Ms Harper

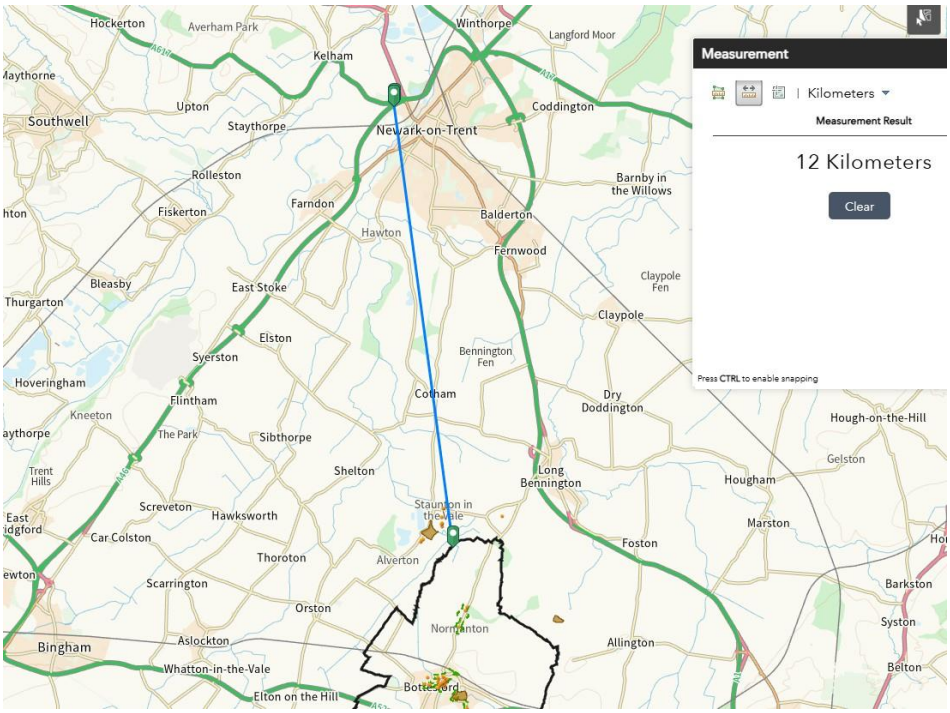
Response by Melton Borough Council to PINS consultation on an EIA scoping opinion request in advance of an application by Cadent Gas Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the proposed H2East Pipeline

I am writing in response to your letter of 6th March 2026 (your ref EN0610001) in which you invited Melton Borough Council to comment as a consultee (on the basis of our being a Local Authority in the vicinity of a proposed development) on an Environmental Impact Assessment scoping opinion request, which has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of an application for a Development Consent Order by Cadent Gas Ltd for the proposed H2East Pipeline.

Having seen the EIA Scoping Report by the applicants, I am aware that this relates to a proposed new pipeline for hydrogen gas which would run from the Humber to Nottinghamshire. The southern end of the proposed gas pipeline would terminate in the northern part of Newark on Trent, which is in Nottinghamshire, as shown on the map excerpt below, which is taken from the EIA Scoping Report.



The map below shows, marked in black, the boundary of the northernmost part of our borough of Melton, which lies just to the north of the village of Bottesford. The blue line shows that the separation distance between this northern boundary of our borough and the southern terminus of the proposed pipeline development would be approximately 12km.



As the separation distance of 12km would be substantial, Melton Borough Council does not consider that the proposed H2East Pipeline development would be likely to have any significant impact on our borough. For that reason, although we recognise that an Environmental Statement will be required with the DCO application, we do not intend to comment on what topics should be scoped into it.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]
Planning Officer

pp

[redacted]
Planning Development Manager

[redacted]

Ministry of Defence

Safeguarding Department

DIO Head Office

St George's House

Whittington

Lichfield

Staffordshire

WS14 9PY

Mobile: [redacted]

E-mail: [redacted]@mod.gov.uk

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Planning ref: EN0610001

DIO ref: 10070376

Jessica Harper

Environmental Services

Infrastructure Decisions and

Applications Service

Planning Inspectorate

c/o QUADIENT

69 Buckingham Avenue

Slough

SL1 4PN

18th March 2026

Dear Jessica,

Re: Application by Cadent Gas Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the proposed development)

Location: Humber to Nottinghamshire

Thank you for consulting the MOD on application reference EN0610001

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites or training resources such as the Military Low Flying System.

I can confirm that, following review of the application documents, the proposed development would be considered to have no detrimental impact on the operation or capability of a defence site or asset. The MOD has no objection to the development proposed.

The MOD must emphasise that this email is provided specifically in response to the application documents and supporting information provided on the Planning Inspectorate website as of the date of this letter.

Amendments to any element of the proposed development (including the location, dimensions, form, and/or finishing materials of any structure) may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and may result in detrimental impact(s) on the operation or capability of defence sites or assets.

In the event that any revised plans, amended plans, additional information or further application(s) are submitted for approval, the MOD, as a statutory consultee, should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response whether the proposed amendments are considered material or not by the determining authority.

I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Safeguarding Manager
DIO Safeguarding

Your ref: EN0610001

Environmental Services
Infrastructure Decisions and
Applications Service
Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

[redacted]
Assistant Spatial Planner
Three Snowhill,
Snowhill Queensway,
Birmingham,
B4 6GA

Tel: [redacted]

Date: 02/04/2026

Via email: H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Sir or Madam,

EIA Scoping Opinion – H2East Pipeline

Thank you for providing National Highways with the opportunity to respond on the proposal for a *"a Gas Transporter Pipeline project, the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire will convey hydrogen from production at North Killingholme on the Humber and High Marnham in Nottinghamshire to industrial users across North Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire."*

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). It is our role to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the SRN whilst acting as a delivery partner to national economic growth. In relation to this consultation, our principal interest is in safeguarding the A180, A160, M180, M181, A1, and A46.

In responding to sustainable development consultations, we have regard to DfT Circular 01/2022: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development ('the Circular'). This sets out how interactions with the Strategic Road Network should be considered in the making of local plans and development management proposals. In addition to the Circular, the response set out below is also in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other relevant policies.

Development Proposal

We note that "the Project includes the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of approximately 150 km of new pipeline to distribute low carbon hydrogen between producers and Industrial Users in the east of England. The pipeline would connect to newly constructed hydrogen production plants at North Killingholme and High Marnham and distribute low carbon hydrogen to industrial users located near Immingham, Scunthorpe, Kirton and Newark."

The submitted Scoping Report states:

“The pipeline would vary in diameter along the route between approximately 4” and 42” and comprise Main Pipeline, that is typically larger diameter pipe used to distribute hydrogen across the network, and Spurs that are typically smaller diameter pipelines that connect end users. The pipeline would be buried along the entire route apart from Hydrogen Above Ground Installations (HAGIs) that are required at junction and connection points within the network and Block Valve Installations (BVIs) used to isolate sections of the network. It is currently envisaged that approximately 25 HAGIs including BVIs would be required at points along the network, however, this is subject to further design review and includes industrial user connection HAGIs, which are likely to be within their own land.

The pipeline would be constructed predominantly using open cut techniques and trenchless crossing techniques at key locations including motorways and major highways, rail, rivers (typically those classed as main rivers, but some may be ordinary watercourses) and large drainage channels. Major crossings would be engineered to minimise environmental and community impact. The potential impact of all techniques such as open cut and trenchless methods will be considered, and a reasonable worst case assessed in the ES.”

The preferred route corridor includes:

- Section A: Immingham and North Killingholme
- Section B: Immingham to Scunthorpe
- Section C: Scunthorpe to High Marnham
- Section D: High Marnham to Kirton and Newark

This proposal qualifies as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), necessitating planning consent through a Development Consent Order (DCO), which must be approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

This document represents the first consultation for H2East Pipeline, with National Highways providing its initial pre-application response.

National Highways’ Considerations

The below sets out our initial review of this proposal and the further information that we will require to fully consider the proposal’s impact on our network:

Drainage

Drainage proposals will be of particular interest to National Highways to ensure that surface water run-off from the site does not threaten the integrity of National Highways drainage assets. As set out in Paragraph 59 of DfT Circular 01/2022, National Highways will not accept any water run-off arising from any change of use into our highway drainage systems, or any new connections into those systems from third party development

drainage systems. We should therefore be consulted on a surface water drainage strategy for the site to understand the proposal for managing the site's drainage.

Buildings and Structures

Buildings and structures should be positioned at a sufficient distance from our network so as not to cause a concern for National Highways. Any buildings or structures that are within the 'fall distance' of National Highways network will need structural approval from National Highways and we should be consulted on building design and materials.

Boundary Treatments and Landscaping

National Highways should be consulted on a boundary treatment and a landscaping plan which should clearly set out any proposed boundary treatments (e.g. fencing) and landscaping work near to our network. The distance of proposals (in metres) from our network should be clearly identified. All boundary treatments and landscaping should be positioned entirely within the red line boundary of the site and far enough within the site that it can be installed and maintained without encroachment onto National Highways land. This applies to fences and all vegetation for the duration of their life. If landscaping or boundary treatments are in excess of 10 metres from our boundary (this is our operational boundary, not the carriageway), it is usually the case that no further information is required, although you may be asked to demonstrate that the distance is sufficient. Where landscaping etc is within 10 metres of our boundary, further details will need to be provided for National Highways approval. For instance, some plants are particularly invasive and can pose a threat to our own vegetation and assets. Further information on the species of plants to be avoided can be provided if required.

Geotechnical

Any excavation and/or landscaping works has the potential to undermine the integrity and stability of the adjacent highway network. As such, if excavation works are within 10 metres of our boundary, prior to the commencement of any excavation (including in relation to landscaping), it would be necessary to set out how geotechnical risks will be identified and managed. This should be undertaken in accordance with Chapter CD122 of the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)* and would need to be submitted for our review and approval. In addition, further information would be required with reference to *BS5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*. This is to ensure that our tree stock and associated root systems are protected.

Once the pipeline route is more precisely defined and the construction method is proposed, there are several potential issues and areas of interest that will need to be addressed in coordination with National Highways. We welcome continued engagement to understand how the cable routing will interact with National Highways' assets. National Highways can then advise further on the necessary technical approval processes which will be needed to be carried out by the applicant to ensure our assets will not be compromised.

Any proposed directional drilling under our network will require compliance with The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Chapter CD622 (Managing Geotechnical Risk).

We advise the applicant to review the requirements of CD622, which can be found on the Standards for Highways website. Particularly the following chapters which set out key requirements for the CD622 approval should be noted:

- Chapter 2 General requirements - appointment of the Designer's Geotechnical Advisor (DGA), roles of DGA and Overseeing Organisation's Geotechnical Advisor (OOGA).
- Chapter 7 Specific risks and requirements with trenchless construction (ground movements, monitoring, records)
- Appendix: report format

Land agreements for the proposed cable crossing will need to be finalised, and suitable traffic management arrangements will also need to be established to ensure safe and efficient construction on the SRN.

Lighting

Any external lighting schemes have the potential to cast a glare on the adjacent highway causing a road safety hazard. As such, National Highways should be consulted on the details any external lighting.

Impact on National Highways Road Schemes

We would need to understand any potential impact that the proposal may have on our road projects and vice versa.

Site Access, crossings and compounds

Construction accesses, haul-road crossings, number/techniques of crossings, and Temporary Construction Compound (TCC) locations are not yet defined, creating material uncertainty for EIA/TA scoping and SRN impact appraisal.

NH will require indicative construction access and routing strategy, a draft crossings schedule (with trenchless/open-cut “reasonable worst case”), and a plan of candidate TCC locations to underpin screening and mitigation.

Operation - Traffic Impacts

It is anticipated that during normal operations, there will minimal staff on site daily. In addition, it is anticipated that there could be minimal visits per year for maintenance. In view of this, we are unlikely to have any concerns relating to traffic impacts on our network once the pipeline is operational. However, the likely traffic and transport impacts of the

operational pipeline should still be set out and clearly evidenced in a Transport Assessment (see below).

Construction - Traffic Impacts

Construction routes are yet to be determined, nonetheless they will be outlined within an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP).

National Highways will require information on the number of HGVs that will be travelling on the SRN to transport materials and equipment to the site. We also require an understanding of what route these vehicles will take to the site as well as the time of day they will likely be arriving and leaving.

Information regarding the access and exit routes and arrival/departure times of workers during the construction period should also be provided to enable sufficient management of construction traffic and to minimise impacts on the SRN.

NH request that the applicant outlines anticipated AIL profiles, candidate SRN routes/timings, and initiate early dialogue with the National Highways Abnormal Loads Team; embed AIL controls in the CTMP.

The applicant will need to set out how CTMP measures will be secured via DCO requirements, contractor roles, GPS route compliance, incident response, signage approvals, and change control.

NH also requests that the applicant notify National Highways before any SRN surveys; agree scopes, methods, and timing for ATCs/MCCs so datasets meet SRN standards.

In terms of NMU/PRoW diversions, the current approach references DMRB LA 112 but lacks location-specific worst-case diversion lengths/durations for PRoW/NCN near SRN corridors. NH requests that an outline Public Access Management Plan with mapped, worst-case diversion distances/timings and crossing management by location is produced.

Recommended Transport Assessment

In light of the above comments, we would expect any formal planning submission to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment prepared in accordance with Planning Practice Guidance on Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements (March, 2014).

In addition, due to the proximity of the site to the SRN, the Transport Assessment should be produced in accordance with DfT Circular 01/2022: The Strategic Road Network and the Delivery of Sustainable Development.

We suggest that the Transport Assessment include the following:

- Development proposal details– information about the scale of the proposed development (and its construction) including any phasing, parking, access points, hours/days of operation, timescales for the construction period, and anticipated year of opening.
- Committed development and future baseline – NH request a definitive list of committed developments and highway schemes are agreed with LHAs/National Highways and apply Circular 01/2022 opening-year tests for peak construction and any phases.
- Trip generation – information about the anticipated levels of traffic the development would generate. This should include the predicted maximum hourly breakdown of staff commuting trips, and HGV/delivery trip generation for the operational and construction phases.
- Trip assignment – information about traffic routings (for construction and operational phases) in relation to the SRN.
- Depending on the scale and distribution of new trips, it may also be necessary to indicate how traffic associated with the development proposal will impact on the SRN in the peak hours. These impacts should be considered for the site both as a standalone operation, and cumulatively with wider committed developments, to consider whether the development will result in material implications for SRN junctions.
- National Highways requests that the applicant agree a shortlist of SRN junctions for capacity and safety testing based on the draft access strategy and collision clusters; set explicit triggers in the TA. Junctions of interest for the SRN are likely to be the A180, A160, M180, M181, A1, and A46 junctions. However, this will need to be agreed once a preferred route is chosen.
- Where further assessments are deemed necessary these should be carried out for the proposed opening year of the development (or where applicable, the start of construction).
- PIC analysis set out in the scoping report uses 2020–2024 data without excluding COVID-affected years; causation analysis not yet committed for identified collision clusters near SRN junctions. NH request that the analysis is re-run a five-year PIC baseline excluding 2020–2021 and undertake causation analysis for all identified clusters/fatalities to identify pre-existing safety issues and inform mitigation and routing.

It may be beneficial for the above assessment work to be agreed in a staged approach with the first stage being to agree the trip generation and trip distribution. This will determine if any further assessments with respect of the SRN are required.

In addition to a Transport Assessment, National Highways should also be consulted on a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). This should set out how the environmental impacts of construction traffic will be minimised and mitigated.

We hope this is useful in the progression of the DCO application. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Midlands Operations Directorate
Email: [redacted]@nationalhighways.co.uk

Date: 02 April 2026
Our ref: 543130
Your ref: EN0610001

Consultations
Hornbeam House
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Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 900

The Planning Inspectorate

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Jessica Harper

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Consultation under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulation 11

Proposal: H2East Pipeline
Location: Humber to Nottinghamshire

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in the consultation dated 06 March 2026

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

A robust assessment of environmental impacts and opportunities, based on relevant and up to date environmental information, should be undertaken prior to an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development.

Natural England has recently been engaged by the applicant via our Discretionary Advice Service, to provide advice on the scope of ecological surveys relevant to our remit; it is hoped engagement will continue throughout the pre-app stages.

For any further advice on this consultation please contact consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

East Midlands Area Delivery Team
Natural England

Annex A – Natural England's Advice on EIA Scoping

Contents

1 General Principles

1.1.1 Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2017 - (The EIA Regulations) sets out the information that should be included in an ES to assess impacts on the natural environment. This includes:

- A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases
- Appropriately scaled and referenced plans which clearly show the information and features associated with the development
- An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen
- A description of the aspects and matters requested to be scoped out of further assessment with adequate justification provided[1].
- Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development
- A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development including biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land, including land take, soil, water, air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), cultural heritage and landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium, and long term, permanent and temporary, positive, and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources (in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity) and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment
- An outline of the structure of the proposed ES

2 Environmental Data

2.1.1 Natural England is required to make available information it holds where requested to do so. National datasets held by Natural England are available at http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/data/default.aspx.

2.1.2 Detailed information on the natural environment is available at www.magic.gov.uk. This includes Marine Conservation Zone GIS shapefiles.

2.1.3 Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS dataset which can be used to help identify the potential for the development to impact on a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the Natural England Open Data Geoportal.

2.1.4 Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character, priority habitats and species or protected species. Local environmental data should be obtained from the appropriate local bodies. This may include the local environmental records centre, the local Wildlife Trust, local geo-conservation group

[1] National Infrastructure Planning Advice Note Seven, Environmental Impact Assessment, Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements (see Insert 2 – information to be provided with a scoping request)

or other recording society.

3 Cumulative and In-Combination Effects

3.1.1 The ES should fully consider the implications of the whole development proposal. This should include an assessment of all supporting infrastructure.

3.1.2 An impact assessment should identify, describe, and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment (subject to available information):

- existing completed projects;
- approved but uncompleted projects;
- ongoing activities;
- plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities; and
- plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, i.e. projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

3.1.3 In particular, NE would like to refer to the high development pressure around the Humber Estuary. The impacts of this proposal in combination with other projects (including both NSIPS and TCPA projects) along the Humber must be considered within the ES.

3.1.4 NE refer the applicant to the Planning Inspectorates Welcome to Find a National Infrastructure Project, in the first instance, to identify those projects to be taken forward for consideration in cumulative assessment.

4 Designated Nature Conservation Sites

4.1.1 The Scoping report sets out that a 10km study area has been used for statutory designated sites. It is generally NE's advice that the study area should extend beyond 10km for sites with features that are known to have large ranges e.g. Geese & Swans. It is later noted at paragraph 5.6.7 that the proposed survey methodology will extend to 20km for sites notified for species with large ranges, which is welcomed.

4.1.2 NE consider that all relevant International and National designated Sites have been identified within Table 5.4.

4.2 Internationally Designated Sites

4.2.1 The ES should thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance / European sites, including marine sites where relevant. This includes Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), listed Ramsar sites, candidate SAC and proposed SPA.

4.2.2 Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive requires an appropriate assessment where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect upon a European Site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. Paragraph 1.7.6 of the

scoping report references the need for a screening assessment, and Appropriate Assessment where effects cannot be ruled out, which is welcomed.

4.2.3 Table 1 below lists the relevant internationally designated sites, linking their citation and conservation objectives, along with the primary impact pathways NE advise must be considered. It should be noted this table is not exhaustive, and a full review of potential impacts should be undertaken by the applicant.

Table 1: Potential risk to international designated sites

Site name	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**
Humber Estuary SPA & Ramsar	The scoping boundary lies directly adjacent to the Humber Estuary Designations. This introduces possible impacts via a number of pathways. As it stands, it is unclear exactly what infrastructure and construction/operational activity could take place adjacent to the Humber. Natural England consider this to be a key aspect of the development plans which must be addressed in detail to ensure avoidance, or mitigation, of any identified impacts. Further engagement with the applicant on this topic is requested during the pre-application period. Impacts to SPA/Ramsar Species: • Noise & Visual Disturbance to birds during construction and operation (inc. maintenance activity), including those within the SPA and using Functionally Linked Land (FLL)* Impacts to Supporting Habitats: • Loss or degradation of supporting habitats within the designated site and FLL. This includes temporary impacts during construction and permanent impacts in the case of above ground infrastructure. Other advice: • We highlight that there are several South Humber Gateway strategic mitigation sites located within the proposed scoping boundary; therefore, potential direct and indirect impacts to these sites must also be assessed. We recommend early-stage engagement with the relevant Local Planning Authorities and Natural England regarding these sites.
Humber Estuary SAC & Ramsar	Impacts to SAC Habitats: • Direct damage to SAC Habitats during construction • Pollution events & Water quality changes during construction

Table 1: Potential risk to international designated sites	
Site name	**Potential impact pathways where further information/assessment is required**
	• Air Quality impacts from construction traffic and dust** • Water supply impacts associated with any proposed abstractions, including horizontal directional drilling (if required). Where water abstraction is required within the Humber catchment, further assessment should be undertaken. Impacts to SAC Species: • Disturbance to River and Sea Lamprey and/or Grey Seal during construction, i.e. via noise, vibration and pollution, including in watercourses functionally linked to the SAC. This includes the River Trent Crossing. • Long term loss or damage to supporting habitats, including via noise, vibration, pollution or introduction of barriers to migration of River and Sea Lamprey
Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC - European Site Conservation Objectives for Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC - UK0012740	Whilst the qualifying features of this site are limited to the woodland interest (i.e. there are no mobile SAC qualifying features), potential indirect impacts, i.e. from Air Quality**, must be considered.

* Natural England have provided the applicant with our Bird Survey Guidance for the Humber Estuary and Lower Derwent Valley FLL (See Annex C attached), and provided specific advice on their proposed survey methods via our Discretionary Advice Service.
** Natural England has produced air quality 'Standard Advice for Air Quality Impacts in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (See Annex B attached) and will not be providing bespoke air quality advice for this project. The standard advice outlines the main air pollutants that must be considered and gives standardised advice on how to assess significance of impacts to designated sites.

4.3 Sherwood Forest ppSPA (Possible Potential Special Protection Area)

The UK government is required by European law to identify how it can contribute to the conservation of particular bird species across their natural range in Europe through the protection of suitable sites. In doing this exercise it has identified that the populations of nightjar and woodlark in Sherwood may warrant such protection. A final decision has not been made and it remains under consideration as part of a UK-wide SPA Review Programme being led by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Whilst not formally notified as an SPA or potential SPA, Natural England advise that that plans and proposals are accompanied by an additional and robust assessment of the likely impacts arising from the proposals on breeding nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest area. The general sampling approach to breeding bird surveys set out in table 5.14 is accepted, however, no breeding survey locations have been specified in the document provided. NE advise that survey in proximity to this area will be helpful to inform assessment of impacts to both birds associated with the ppSPA, and wider populations of breeding birds. This applies also to the Humber Estuary, and clusters of SSSIs where breeding birds are notified features.

Natural England have produced an advice note detailing the background of the ppSPA and the recommended risk-based approach (See Annex A attached).

4.4 Nationally Designated Sites

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

4.4.1 All relevant SSSIs have been identified in Table 5.4, which is welcomed. The Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within each SSSI and identify appropriate measures to avoid or mitigate any significant effects.

4.4.2 Along the length of the scoping boundary, there are a significant number of SSSIs within the 10km study area. In particular, it is noted that there are a number of SSSIs directly adjacent to the scoping boundary. There are three clear pinch points along the route where the scoping boundary passes through and between clusters of SSSIs:

1- Section A: Humber Estuary SSSI

2- Section B: Castlethorpe Tufas SSSI, Cleatham Quarry SSSI, Manton and Twigmoor SSSI, Manton Stone Quarry SSSI, Messingham Sand Quarry SSSI, Wrawby Moor SSSI, Kirmington Pits SSSI

3- Section D: Wellow Park SSSI, Laxton Sykes SSSI, Kirton Wood SSSI

4.4.3 Natural England advise that further route refinement must consider the potential impacts of the proposal upon these sites, seeking to avoid impacts in the first instance, in line with the mitigation hierarchy. NE request further engagement with the applicant regarding the routing of the project and potential impacts to these designated sites in particular. The proximity of the route to these SSSIs also presents opportunities for enhancement, for example via buffering and connection of these sites, which should be explored through the design of the proposal and Biodiversity Net Gain.

4.4.4 It is also noted that a number of these SSSIs are either solely or partially notified for their geological interest. Whilst generally these features are less sensitive to development, an assessment of impacts to these features must still be presented in the ES.

4.4.5 Natural England has produced air quality ‘Standard Advice for Air Quality Impacts in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ (See Annex B attached) and will not be providing bespoke air quality advice for this project. The standard advice outlines

the main air pollutants that must be considered and gives standardised advice on how to assess significance of impacts to designated sites.

4.5 Regionally and Locally Important Sites

South Humber Gateway Strategic Mitigation Scheme

4.5.1 Natural England has been working with North East Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Council and other estuary stakeholders for many years to deliver a strategic approach to mitigation within the South Humber Gateway (SHG) for impacts associated with the loss of land functionally linked to the Humber Estuary SPA/Ramsar site. Natural England believes this is the most effective way to mitigate for impacts on functionally linked land.

4.5.2 As the proposed development site falls within the South Humber Bank mitigation zone, the Applicant should liaise with the LPAs regarding how to contribute to the strategic approach. We also advise that the Applicant should have regard to the South Humber Gateway Ecological Mitigation Delivery Plan (January 2019): Strategic Mitigation Delivery Plan.

4.5.3 Notwithstanding this, Natural England's advice is that this proposed development, and the application of measures to avoid or reduce the likely harmful effects from will need to be assessed via an appropriate assessment in view of the European Site's conservation objectives and in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Impacts to the SHG Strategic Mitigation Sites

4.5.4 Natural England notes that the redline boundary of the proposed development encompasses some of the allocated and existing SHG mitigation sites. Avoidance of works within these mitigation sites is recommended in the first instance. It is not yet clear from the information presented within the EIA scoping report whether there will be permanent development which encroaches onto these mitigation sites. Loss or diminution of one of the key mitigation sites is likely to impact on the effectiveness of the whole strategy. Therefore, these impacts would need to be fully assessed in the ES.

4.5.5 All potential construction impacts associated with the proposed works, such as disturbance to birds and physical damage to the habitat, should also be assessed. Temporary disturbance to the mitigation site may affect its ability to function as wetland bird habitat, and therefore impact on the effectiveness of the overall strategy. There should also be consideration given to the potential for long term impacts which may occur due to use of the proposed mitigation sites during construction. For example, heavy machinery and temporary hardstanding may lead to soil compaction and inputs of pollutants to the habitat, and therefore reduce the potential for the site to function as suitable habitat for Humber birds in the long term. We advise that the developers should have regard to the views of relevant stakeholders (via the Humber Nature Partnership) on design/timing of these works.

5 Protected species

5.1.1 The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water

voles, badgers and bats).

5.1.2 Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law. Records of protected species should be obtained from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations and local groups. Consideration should be given to the wider context of the site, for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area.

5.1.3 The area likely to be affected by the development should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and, where necessary, licensed, consultants.

5.1.4 Natural England will not make detailed comments on Protected Species elements of this project. Natural England has adopted standing advice for protected species, which includes guidance on survey and mitigation measures. Applicants should check to see if a mitigation licence is required using NE guidance on licencing NE wildlife licences. Natural England are unable to advise upon the need for a licence; this responsibility falls to the developer.

5.1.5 Where licence need is identified, applicants should make use of Natural England's charged Pre Submission Screening Service, during the pre-application stages, for a review of a draft wildlife licence application. Through this service Natural England will review a full draft licence application to issue a Letter of No Impediment (LONI) which explains that based on the information reviewed to date, that it sees no impediment to a licence being granted in the future should the DCO be issued. This is done to give the Planning Inspectorate confidence to make a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State in granting a DCO. It should be noted a draft licence can also be reviewed under any existing DAS contracts held between the applicant and NE. Advice Note Eleven, Annex C – Natural England and the Planning Inspectorate contains details of the LONI process.

6 Priority Habitats and Species

6.1.1 Priority Habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. Lists of priority habitats and species can be found here. Natural England does not routinely hold species data. Such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely.

6.1.2 Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land. Sites can be checked against the (draft) national Open Mosaic Habitat (OMH) inventory published by Natural England and freely available to download. Further information is also available here.

6.1.3 An appropriate level habitat survey should be carried out on the site, to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical, and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether

any scarce or priority species are present.

6.1.4 The ES should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys)
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal
- The habitats and species present
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether priority species or habitat)
- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation measures
- Opportunities for biodiversity net gain or other environmental enhancement

6.2 Ancient Woodland, ancient and veteran trees

6.2.1 Table 5.9 identifies all mapped Ancient Woodland within 2km of the scoping boundary, including a number of parcels within the scoping boundary.

6.2.2 It is always Natural England's advice that project design must avoid any direct loss of this irreplaceable habitat. The proposed approach to avoidance and assessment of impacts to Ancient Woodland set out at paragraphs 5.5.36-40 is thus welcomed. The ES should also consider opportunities for enhancement of Ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees.

6.2.3 Ancient woodland is an irreplaceable habitat of great importance for its wildlife, its history, and the contribution it makes to our diverse landscapes. The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) notes Applicant assessment of ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees should include measures to mitigate fully any direct or indirect effects of development during construction and operational phases. It states the Secretary of State should not grant development consent that would result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

6.2.4 Natural England maintains the Ancient Woodland Inventory which can help identify ancient woodland. The wood pasture and parkland inventory sets out information on wood pasture and parkland.

6.2.5 The ancient tree inventory provides information on the location of ancient and veteran trees.

6.2.6 The applicant should refer to Natural England and the Forestry Commission's standing advice on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees for further advice.

7 Biodiversity Net Gain

7.1.1 The Environment Act 2021 includes NSIPs in the requirement for BNG, with the biodiversity gain objective for NSIPs defined as at least a 10% increase in the pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat. It is the intention that BNG should apply to all terrestrial NSIPs accepted for examination from May 2026.

7.1.2 As it stands, no commitment has been made by the applicant to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. It is stated at paragraph 5.3.3 that the applicant will review the BNG guidance in full when it emerges and consider it's implications. Natural England

encourage a commitment to BNG delivery to be built into the project as early as possible.

7.1.3 Whilst Natural England are not the statutory consultee with regard to BNG, and as such will not make detailed comments on metric calculations and compliance, we would welcome further discussion with the applicant regarding their approach to BNG delivery for this project and the opportunities is poses for enhancement.

7.1.4 Biodiversity Net Gain outcomes can be achieved on-site, off-site or through a combination of both, however, on-site provision should be considered first. We welcome the indications that BNG will be provided within the Order Limits around the proposed permanent infrastructure. Delivery of BNG should be aligned to the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) to deliver the most impactful gains for nature, and achieve the strategic significance multiplier.

8 Landscape

8.1 Nationally Designated Landscapes

It is stated as paragraph 8.5.19 that the scoping boundary lies approximately 10km from the Northern border of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape. As a result, Impacts to this designation have been scoped out of the ES. Natural England raise no concerns with this approach, but advise that in the event of any re-routing, the potential for impacts to the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape, or its setting, should be reconsidered.

8.2 Landscape and Visual Impacts

The environmental assessment should refer to the relevant National Character Areas. Character area profiles set out descriptions of each landscape area and statements of environmental opportunity.

Whilst Natural England will not make comments on local landscape impacts, the EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using landscape assessment methodologies. We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing, and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character.

A landscape and visual impact assessment should also be carried out for the proposed development and surrounding area. Natural England recommends use of the methodology set out in *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2013 (*(3rd edition) produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management. For National Parks and National Landscapes, we advise that the assessment also includes effects on the 'special qualities' of the designated landscape, as set out in the statutory management plan for the area. These identify the particular landscape and related characteristics which underpin the natural beauty of the area and its designation status.

The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. This should include an assessment

of the impacts of other proposals currently at scoping stage.

To ensure high quality development that responds to and enhances local landscape character and distinctiveness, the siting and design of the proposed development should reflect local characteristics and, wherever possible, use local materials. Account should be taken of local design policies, design codes and guides as well as guidance in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code. The ES should set out the measures to be taken to ensure the development will deliver high standards of design and green infrastructure. It should also set out detail of layout alternatives, where appropriate, with a justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.

The National Infrastructure Commission has also produced Design Principles Design Principles for National Infrastructure - NIC endorsed by Government in the National Infrastructure Strategy.

9 Soils and Agricultural Land Quality

9.1.1 Soils are a valuable, finite natural resource and should also be considered for the ecosystem services they provide, including for food production, water storage and flood mitigation, as a carbon store, reservoir of biodiversity and buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and sustainably managed. Impacts from the development on soils and best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land should be considered. Further guidance is set out in the Natural England Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land.

9.1.2 The following issues should be considered and, where appropriate, included as part of the ES:

- Soils as a site selection factor / constraint in temporary and permanent infrastructure.
- The degree to which soils would be disturbed or damaged as part of the development.
- The extent to which agricultural land would be disturbed or lost as part of this development, including whether any BMV agricultural land would be impacted.

9.1.3 This will require a detailed Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) survey if one is not already available. For information on the availability of existing ALC information see www.magic.gov.uk.

9.1.4 Table 13.7 sets out the proposed ALC survey approach, which involves pre-consent survey of areas of permanent infrastructure, and post-construction survey of the refined pipeline corridor. Natural England advise that an ALC survey should be undertaken across the full order limits at the pre-consent stage, to enable avoidance of BMV land through site design (i.e. micro siting) as far as reasonably practicable in line with (NPS EN-1 Para 5.11.12), and to inform soil management, reinstatement and re-use.

- The ALC survey should normally be at a detailed level, e.g. one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, i.e. 1.2 metres. The survey data can inform suitable soil handling methods and appropriate reuse of the soil resource where required (e.g. agricultural

reinstatement, habitat creation, landscaping, allotments and public open space).

9.1.5 The ES should set out details of how any adverse impacts on soils can be avoided or minimised and demonstrate how soils will be sustainably used and managed. The aim will be to minimise soil handling and maximise the sustainable use and management of the available soil to achieve successful after-uses and minimise off-site impacts.

9.1.6 Natural England welcome reference being made to the ISEP (formerly IEMA) guidance: A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment, and agree with the assessment methodology set out in section 13.6, including the sensitivity and magnitude criteria used for impacts to BMV land.

9.1.7 Natural England welcome the commitment to production of a Soil Management Plan, including reference to the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites. For all temporary works, commitment should be made to reinstate to the original ALC grade within the Soil Management Plan.

9.1.8 Natural England welcome the proposed approach to Peat survey set out in table 13.7. Natural England utilises the England Peat Status Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Storage open data source to identify peat. It may be useful to refer to existing borehole data from the British Geological Survey (BGS) but if there is a lack of data across the proposal site then a peat survey may be required. Where required, we advise that peat surveys should be carried out in line with the Peatland Survey Guidance 2017 (Guidance on Developments on Peatland).

10 Connecting People with Nature

10.1.1 The ES should consider potential impacts on access land, common land, public rights of way and, where appropriate, the England Coast Path and coastal access routes and coastal margin in the vicinity of the development, in line with NPPF paragraph 104 and there will be reference in the relevant National Policy Statement. It should assess the scope to mitigate for any adverse impacts. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) can be used to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.

11 Climate Change

11.1.1 Whilst it is beyond Natural England's remit to provide detailed comment on the proposed climate change assessment, Natural England can provide the below recommendations.

11.1.2 The England Biodiversity Strategy published by Defra establishes principles for the consideration of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. The ES should reflect these principles and identify how the development's effects on the natural environment will be influenced by climate change, and how ecological networks will be maintained. The NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment 'by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures' (NPPF Para 164), which should be demonstrated through the ES.

11.1.3 Avoidance of Peatlands and other carbon sequestering habitats should also be specifically considered in the ES, with opportunities for their enhancement, e.g. via

peatland restoration or woodland planting, being incorporated wherever possible.

11.1.4 Given the nature of the project, it is pertinent that all opportunities are taken to minimise the carbon footprint of the development and contribute to net zero not just via decarbonising industry, but also via good design and implementation of nature based solutions.

11.1.5 Further information is available from the Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk, the National Adaptation Programme (NAP), the Climate Change Impacts Report Cards (biodiversity, infrastructure, water etc.) and the UKCP18 climate projections.

Advice Note to Local Planning Authorities regarding the consideration of likely effects on the breeding population of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest region November 2025

This advice note updates and replaces the previous note dated March 2014 following the recent publication of the UK SPA Review Phase II report by JNCC in May 2025.

Summary

While no decision has been made about the future classification of parts of Sherwood Forest as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for its populations of breeding nightjars and woodlarks, Natural England advise those affected Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to be mindful of the Secretary of State's decision in 2011, following Public Inquiry, to refuse to grant planning permission for an Energy Recovery Facility at Rainworth where the potential impacts on these birds and their supporting habitats was given significant weight.

In light of this decision Natural England continues to recommend a precautionary approach should be adopted by LPAs which ensures that reasonable and proportionate steps have been taken in order to avoid or minimise, as far as possible, any potential adverse effects from development on the breeding populations of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest area. This will help to ensure that any future need for LPAs to comply with the provisions of the Habitats Regulations is met with a robust set of measures already in place.

This Advice Note provides a brief explanation of the background to the current situation and suggests a 'risk-based' approach that could be followed to help futureproof decision-making on plans and projects. In addition, a summary of the current LPA statutory duties in relation to birds is provided for clarity and there are links to further information relating to the legislation and policy that affects SPAs. The document is set out as follows:

- **Background – including reference to planning case law**
- **Current situation**
- **The recommended 'risk-based' approach**
- **Existing statutory duties relevant to birds**
- **Further information**
- **Map highlighting the areas of greatest ornithological interest for breeding nightjar and woodlark**

Background – the possibility of a new protected area (Special Protection Area) for nightjar and woodlark in Sherwood and Rufford Energy Recovery Facility planning case law

In 2011, following a Public Inquiry, the Secretary of State decided to refuse to grant planning permission for an Energy Recovery Facility on land at the former Rufford Colliery site at Rainworth. The likely effect on the breeding populations of woodlark and nightjar was a key consideration in the Secretary of State's decision[1].

[1] See http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919132719/http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1914959.pdf

The Secretary of State agreed that whilst the application site was not within an area currently identified as a Special Protection Area (SPA), there was a credible possibility of this in the future and therefore merit in following the formal approach required for SPAs. He agreed that when considering the impact of the development on the use of the area by the bird species listed on Annex 1 of the European Wild Birds Directive – in this case woodlark and nightjar - an approach similar to that set out in the relevant legislation (now regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations[2]) should be adopted. The Secretary of State concluded that he could not be sure that the proposed development would not harm the integrity of the area used by the birds and that the conflict this created with the aims of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the potential harm to the integrity of the habitat used by woodlark and nightjar weighed significantly against the proposal.

Current situation

The UK government must continue to contribute to the conservation of wild birds across their natural range in Europe through the protection of the most suitable sites in the UK as Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The current review of the UK network of SPAs being led by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) has identified that the populations of nightjar and woodlark in Sherwood Forest may warrant such protection.

Whilst a final decision has not been made by Government, JNCC and the statutory nature conservation bodies have recently advised Government that it should consider the option of a new Sherwood Forest SPA to address the current insufficiencies in the network for these birds[3].

Until the UK SPA Review concludes and provides further clarity as to whether new SPAs for nightjar and/or woodlark will be classified, there continues to be a possibility of an area of Sherwood Forest being classified as a SPA.

The possibility of the area becoming an SPA creates a risk for spatial planning in the Sherwood area. This is because any formalisation of the site as a Special Protection Area (SPA) would place a legal obligation on decision-taking bodies to review extant permissions and decisions and potentially modify them should there be any significant risks to the SPA.

We recognise that in the interim this creates difficulty for LPAs in how they should consider land allocations and policies in Development Plans and individual planning applications within the Sherwood Forest area. How local authorities choose to confront this issue is ultimately a matter for them, however Natural England advise that LPAs should take a 'risk-based approach' or similar of the kind taken by the Secretary of State in the case referred to above. This should provide decision-making with a degree of future-proofing until such a time that there is greater certainty on whether the Sherwood Forest area is to be proposed as a SPA and whether the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Habitats Regulations are to take effect.

The recommended 'risk-based' approach

The 'risk based' approach advocated by Natural England in 2011 was endorsed by the Secretary of State in coming to his decision on the development proposal at the former Rufford Colliery.

Natural England suggest that in taking a risk-based approach to development plan making and decision-making, LPAs seek to ensure that plans and proposals are accompanied by an additional and robust assessment of the likely impacts arising from the proposals on

[2] See _ https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/regulation/63
[3] See _ https://jncc.gov.uk/news/uk-special-protection-areas-report-published/

breeding nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest area. This should ideally cover the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts which may include, but may not be limited to, the following;

- disturbance to breeding birds from people, their pets and traffic
- loss, fragmentation and/or damage to breeding and/or feeding habitat
- bird mortality arising from domestic pets and/or predatory mammals and birds
- bird mortality arising from road traffic and/or wind turbines
- pollution and/or nutrient enrichment of breeding habitats

No formal assessments of the boundary of any future SPA have been made; therefore, it is not possible to definitively identify whether individual application sites would fall inside or outside any possible future designated area. However, the enclosed map, which highlights the areas of greatest ornithological interest for breeding nightjar and woodlark, was submitted as evidence to the Rufford ERF Public Inquiry and could be of assistance to your Authority in this regard[4]. It is worth noting that the Inspector at the Rufford ERF Inquiry decided it appropriate to consider both boundaries to inform his recommendations.

We also advise that LPAs should seek to satisfy themselves that planning applications contain sufficient objective information to ensure that all potential impacts on the breeding nightjar and woodlark populations have been adequately avoided or minimised as far as is possible using appropriate measures and safeguards. It may be necessary to obtain ecological advice in relation to the potential impacts of a proposal and any possible avoidance or mitigation measures.

Natural England would encourage those LPAs in the Sherwood Forest area to work together, in compliance with the duty to cooperate, to consider the combined effect of their plans and proposals in order to gain a strategic overview and develop a collaborative approach. We are of the view that taking the approach outlined above represents good planning practice which will assist your Authority should the site be classified as SPA in limiting the number of plans and projects which would need to be re-considered as part of the review of consents process required by the Habitats Regulations.

Existing biodiversity and wild bird duties

In addition to advising that a risk-based approach will assist LPAs in future-proofing plans and decisions, Natural England advises that there are other relevant duties in legislation and policy that direct you to consider the protection and enhancement of nightjar and woodlark populations in the Sherwood area.

Your Authority must discharge its statutory duty given under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to conserve and enhance biodiversity when exercising its functions. It follows that your authority should have regard to conserving nightjar and woodlark, owing to their inclusion as Species of Principal [conservation] Importance in England[5].

Your Authority should also have regard to duties given under regulation 9A of the Habitats Regulations, which requires LPAs to apply all reasonable endeavours to avoid the deterioration of wild bird habitat (including that of nightjar and woodlark) when exercising their statutory functions. The presence of either or both species and any effects on them is a material consideration when considering planning applications, regardless of whether the Sherwood area is put forward for classification as an SPA in due course.

Further information

[4] http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planningsearch/plandisp.aspx?AppNo=ES/1144%20

[5] As listed in section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under section 40 of that Act

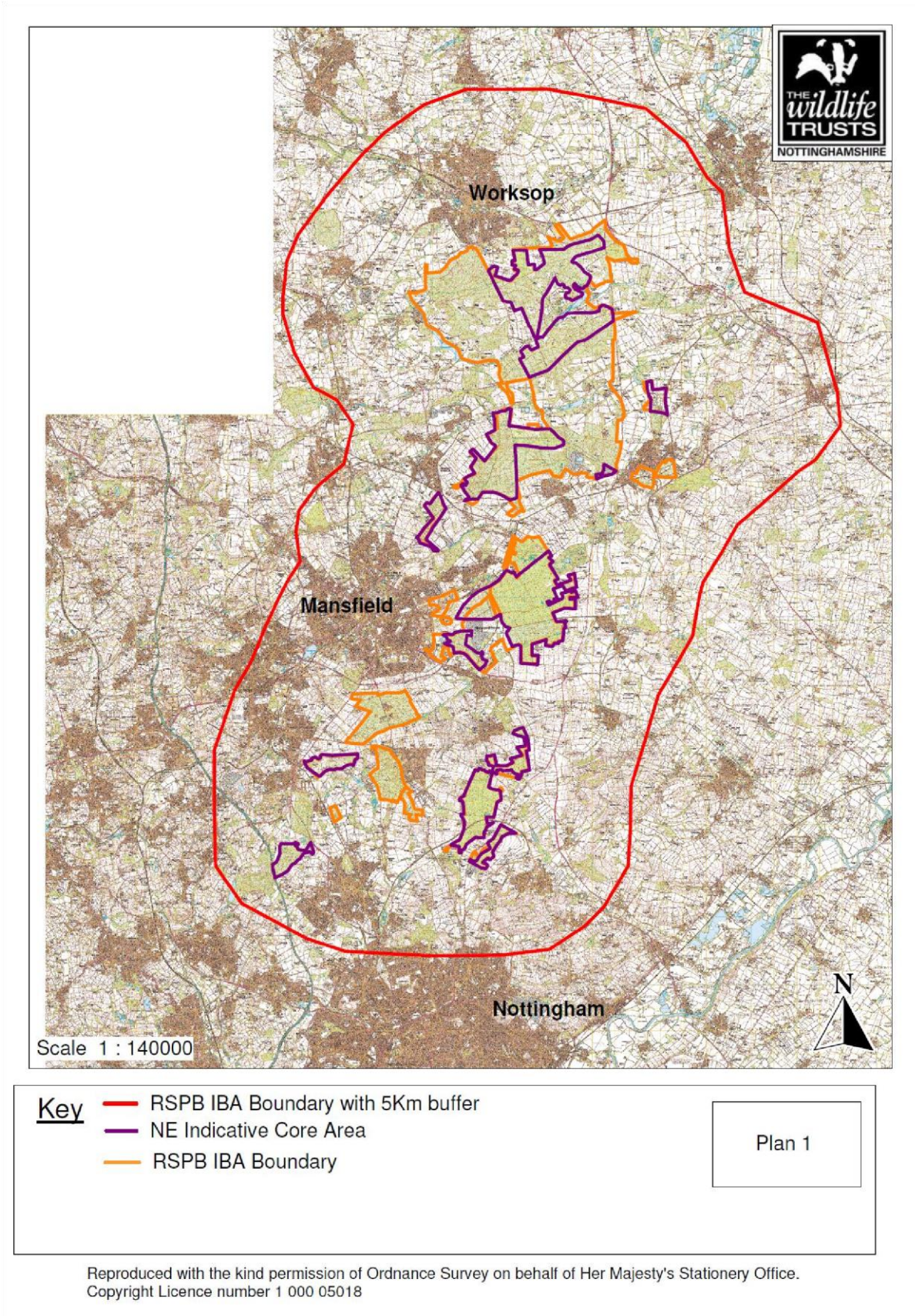
- Information on the legislation, policy and classification process affecting Special Protection Areas (SPAs) is available at Special Protection Areas | Advisor to Government on Nature Conservation | JNCC

We hope this advice is helpful and provides further assistance. Should Natural England be in a position to update these views and advice, we will do so and notify you accordingly.

If you have any queries about this advice, please contact:
consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

Natural England
East Midlands
2025

Map highlighting the areas of greatest ornithological interest for breeding nightjar and woodlark, submitted as evidence to the Rufford ERF Public Inquiry 2010



Annex B: Standard Advice for Air Quality Impacts in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

Natural England provides the following standard advice on air pollution. This advice relates to the protection of protected sites under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the Habitats Regulations) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and should be taken as Natural England's formal representation. This standard advice is applicable to all stages of the NSIP process and may be used by the applicant for NSIP pre application stages, by the Examining Authority (ExA) during the statutory stages of the NSIP and by the relevant Secretary of State as the competent authority.

Protected sites are 'sites of special scientific interest' (SSSIs) and 'habitats sites' (also called 'European sites'). For the purposes of this advice, Habitats Sites are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), possible SACs, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Potential SPAs, Ramsar sites, and sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on Habitats Sites. Although their regulatory frameworks differ, the general principles and approach for air pollution assessment outlined for Habitats Sites are also relevant for SSSIs. Where the following advice applies to both, we use the term protected sites. Where the advice or approach differs, the individual terms are used.

This includes advice on information that is required to assess this and how to interpret the results of air quality modelling for the decision maker to conclude whether air quality impacts would have an adverse effect on the integrity of a Habitat site or a SSSI. You should also consider any relevant caselaw that could affect how you carry out any air quality assessments.

Air pollutants

This advice covers the following air pollutants from the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of a proposal

- ammonia (NH3)
- nitrogen oxides (NO, NO2 or NOx)
- nitrogen deposition
- acid deposition
- sulphur dioxide (SO2)

Standing advice on air pollution and development is also available here:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-pollution-and-development-advice-for-local-authorities

Whilst the standing advice does not cover NSIPs, it does include additional technical advice which may prove useful. However, in summary, Table 1 provides the steps that we advise should be taken to assess air quality impacts on protected sites. The applicant should provide their own assessment containing the information and detailed modelling you need. You need to review this and make your own conclusion.

Table 1: Sequential approach to air quality assessments

Stage	Step		Supplemental evidence/ basis for judgment
Initial screening for credible risk of an effect	**1**	Check Distance criteria - could significant emissions reach a protected site? Yes = move to Step 2 No = no further HRA required	The Air Pollution Information System (APIS) includes an introduction to air pollution. APIS provides site specific information on the interest features of individual protected sites and

			the sensitivity to air quality impacts of those features. Please see Table 2 for industrial air pollution screening distances. For road traffic impacts, roads on the affected road network that lie within 200m of a designated site should be considered. Use Magic Map to check the location of designated sites. Search for the location then select the 'Designations' option.
	2	Check if the qualifying habitats or supporting habitat of qualifying species are sensitive to air quality impacts. Yes = move to Step 3 No = no further HRA required APIS Site relevant Critical Loads and Levels (based on literature and professional judgement) http://www.apis.ac.uk/srcl Some habitats may not have a critical load because there is not enough data. In these cases, you should find the critical load for a similar habitat type or feature.	The qualifying features of Habitats Sites can be identified in the relevant Site Conservation Objectives and Supplementary advice packages, which include a definitive list of legally qualifying features. These objectives are available here. Alternatively, a list of qualifying features can also be found by searching for the Habitats Site and SSSIs on Designated Sites View , alongside Conservation Objectives and Supplementary Advice for Habitats Sites. The above links will also show whether any of the qualifying features for Habitats Sites have a Restore or Maintain Conservation Objective in relation to air quality thresholds (critical levels or loads). If the site is a SPA or an SAC/SSSI designated for an animal species (as opposed to a habitat), determine whether the predicted pollution effects on the supporting habitat will have a negative effect on the notified species.
Detailed AQ modelling	**3**	Undertake detailed modelling using a recognised dispersal model – i.e. Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling System (ADMS) Unless robust site-specific evidence is provided, we advise the lower range of the critical load should be used in modelling. If there are site specific reasons why it is more appropriate to use the higher end of the range, then this should be clearly evidenced.	Air Quality modelling should include relevant scenarios that are clearly identified. One such example of scenarios is a baseline plus future forecasts as follows: Baseline, a construction year, and future operational year(s), do nothing (without proposal), do something (with proposal); taking into account background trends for each pollutant). For proposals that will emit pollutants from a point source, it is helpful to provide isopleths of the dispersion modelling results, showing the predicted contours of pollutant concentration and deposition of the development. These may be assessed against the locations of protected sites and sensitive features within those sites. At least 3 years of meteorological data should be included within the AQ modelling for sources other than for road transport modelling The Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) has produced the following document to assist its

			members in the assessment of the air quality impacts of development on designated nature conservation sites: air-quality-impacts-on-nature-sites-2020.pdf
Applying screening thresholds	**4a**	Apply Screening Threshold Alone If below threshold alone, move to step 4b. If above = move straight to step 5	Ascertain the Process Contribution (PC) from the plan or project (emissions and predicted deposition). Apply Screening threshold (1% of critical level or load) alone using the annual averages. If the process contribution is less than 1% of the relevant long-term benchmark (Environmental Assessment Level, Critical Level or Critical Load), the emission is not likely to have a significant effect alone irrespective of the background levels.
	4b	Apply Screening Threshold In-combination. If below threshold in-combination = no LSE/significant risk of damage etc and no further assessment required. If above = move straight to step 5 Applicants might use the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) 'decision-making thresholds' as a reason for not completing an in-combination assessment. If so, you should check they have correctly followed the JNCC guidance on decision-making thresholds. If this guidance shows they do not need to complete an in-combination assessment, continue to step 5. If applicants have not used the decision-making thresholds, or have not followed them correctly, they will need to provide an in-combination assessment.	Use information from competent authorities (Planning Portal, PINS NSIP register or Environmental Permitting register) to determine if there are plans or projects in the pipeline (not included in the current baseline) that should be considered in-combination If the combined process contribution is less than 1% of the relevant long-term benchmark (Environmental Assessment Level, Critical Level or Critical Load), the emission is not likely to have a significant effect in-combination irrespective of background levels.
Detailed Assessment of ecological impacts	**5**	This step is to consider the ecological impacts of AQ on the interest features of the designated site and is not based only on numerical figures. If it is not certain whether sensitive features are located within the areas to be impacted, a site visit may be helpful to determine this. For SSSIs, this step should provide all the information necessary, including any required mitigation, for the decision maker to determine if there would be an adverse effect on a SSSI. If Habitats Sites are impacted by the proposals, move to Step 6.	The following information is likely to be helpful for the decision maker: Is the sensitive feature(s) located within the pollution footprint? Should it be there for the site to meet its Conservation Objectives or is there some other, natural reason (e.g. hydrology), why the sensitive feature(s) would not be expected to occur there? Check APIS Trends Tab for reasonable expectation on whether background pollution may be decreasing or not. Habitats that have already been subject to high background nitrogen deposition can develop tolerance to further deposition. This cannot be used to justify further exceedance as it would undermine conservation objectives to reverse decline. You should consider predicted effects on

			the species richness of a habitat against the site's conservation objectives.
Appropriate Assessment (AA) for habitats sites	**6**	The competent authority to undertake their AA to conclude whether or not there will be an adverse effect on integrity (AEOI) of habitats sites. Any mitigation proposed should also be assessed at this point. Should the AA conclude that the proposal would have an AEOI that cannot be excluded with mitigation measures, consider the derogation route of the HRA process. Should compensation measures be required under derogation, please contact Natural England for specific advice. Note: If an AA has been undertaken of the proposals alone and concluded that there will not be an adverse effect on integrity, if there are residual impacts that are not fully mitigated, these will need to be considered in combination with other plans or projects	Where mitigation is required to enable a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity to be reached the AA must be able to show that mitigation measures can be relied upon to avoid adverse effects over the full lifetime of the project (ie construction, operation and decommissioning where relevant). To be viable, such measures should be **effective, reliable, timely, guaranteed** and of **sufficient duration**. The assessment of such measures should be supported by evidence. When deciding on whether the proposals set out in the NSIP will have an adverse effect on Integrity on a Habitats Site, the Conservation Objectives and any supplementary advice should be taken into account. Including whether the site is already exceeding the environmental thresholds for ammonia, nitrogen oxides and nitrogen deposition and has a restore conservation objective.

Mitigation measures

If you cannot conclude there is no adverse effect, the applicant will need to apply mitigation measures. Measures will only be appropriate if you can quantify their effectiveness in reducing emissions on the protected site. You should check that mitigation measures are in place to avoid adverse effects on site integrity over the lifetime of the project.

Mitigation may include measures that:

- the applicant volunteers
- you impose through formal conditions or restrictions in any permission or authorisation – these may be different or stricter measures than ones proposed by the applicant

Examples could include:

- relocation or redesign of developments to avoid impacts on protected sites
- control of other emissions of the same pollutants with an overlapping effect
- a change in stack height for industrial processes
- Euro 6 standards for construction machinery
- adding wooded shelterbelts, trees, green walls and hedges to limit dispersal of emissions, as long as these measures in themselves would not negatively impact the protected site

Table 2: Industrial air pollution screening distances

Emission source	Distance for SSSIs	Distance for habitats sites
Industrial developments	2km	5km
General combustion processes (under 20MW energy input)	500m	500m
General combustion processes (20MW to 50MW energy input)	2km	2km
General combustion processes (over 50MW energy input)	2km	10km
Mechanical and biological waste treatment	500m	500m
Landfill waste	2km	2km
Compost (under 500 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput)	500m	500m
Compost (500 to 75,000 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput)	1km	1km
Compost (over 75,000 tonnes maximum annual operational throughput)	2km	2km
Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals	5km	5km
Oil and gas exploration and extraction	500m	500m
Quarries	200m	200m
Other industrial developments causing air pollution	500m	500m

Additional advice

Common Standards Monitoring[1] is used to define the ecological condition of a protected site. It is undertaken on a broader level and does not currently consider air quality impacts. The relevant benchmark for assessing impacts is the critical thresholds. Therefore, the existing status of a designated site should not be the sole reason for judgement on potential impact.

For many protected sites, the current background pollution may already be exceeding the relevant critical load/level from a different source type to the project being assessed (e.g. where the main source of background exceedance is due to agriculture, but the proposal is an industrial project). Proposals must consider their own impacts against the relevant environmental thresholds. There are many reasons why background levels are high, but the conservation objective is to 'maintain or restore' air pollutants to within these benchmarks. The objective would be undermined by proposals that add further emissions, including if it compromises any strategic initiatives to reduce air pollution levels.

You must determine if there is evidence that the increased emissions represent a measurable risk and could compromise the strategic initiatives. You would need to consider information on:

[1] HYPERLINK "https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/common-standards-monitoring/"Common Standards Monitoring | JNCC - Adviser to Government on Nature Conservation

- the extent to which any declining national trends in air pollution, or strategic initiatives to tackle emissions affecting the site more locally, might otherwise lead to improvements
- the rate at which such improvements are anticipated
- the extent of the impacts of a plan or project, and whether those impacts can properly be considered temporary and reversible

If the affected area is small, consider the risk to site integrity proportionally. For example, how important is the area in terms of rarity, location, distribution, vulnerability to change and ecological structure. If it is a supporting habitat, consider its importance to the designated species on the site. Consider any site survey information that may provide evidence of existing impacts.

Emissions from road transport (if applicable):

Emissions from road transport may be an operational impact or be limited to the construction phase of proposals. Roads on the affected road network that lie within 200m of a designated site should be considered. If all affected roads are further than 200m from a protected site, then there is no likely significant effect (habitats sites) or no impact (SSSIs) on protected sites from air pollution

Improvements in vehicle technology and a move to further electrification of the vehicle fleet will, over time, result in lower background levels of nitrogen deposition and nitrogen oxide pollution near to roads. As most sites are currently over the relevant thresholds and have a "restore" objective, this should be noted as a "retardation" of the restore objective and expressed in months and years. Retardation of less than one year is acceptable as air quality is considered against an annual average. Please note that ammonia impacts cannot be assessed in this manner as there is no certainty of a declining trend.

Defra Emissions Factor Toolkit

The Defra Emission Factor Toolkit (EFT) allows for gradual introduction of electric vehicles into the fleet (cars and LGVs) up to 2050. These are the emission factors we advise that NSIPs should be using (which we advise should also consider ammonia emissions as well as NOx – using one of three sets of emission factors available). However, the User Guide to the EFT highlights that calculation tools only support assessment years 2018 up to 2030, reflecting that predictions and assumptions beyond then become less certain. Where EFT calculated emissions are to be used after 2030 to inform air quality assessments, the EFT indicates that appropriate caveats around the limitations of the analysis must be included to accompany the assessment. We therefore advise that emission factors no later than 2030 are used for HRAs– which would mean percentages of EVs are at predicted 2030 levels. A key concern is that, although EVs themselves have no tailpipe emissions, and the percentage of them will increase, the remaining combustion engine vehicles on the road may become more polluting as they age as selective catalytic reduction technology may create 'ammonia slip' over time. Ammonia slip is the unreacted ammonia (NH_3) that escapes from a selective catalytic reduction (SCR) or selective non-catalytic reduction (SNCR) system used to reduce NOx in exhaust gases.

Motorways within the affected road network

There is potentially an added complexity to the need for in-combination assessments when considering traffic on motorways, as including these roads can mean that the assessment takes

account of traffic growth related to strategic factors or long range (external) trips that are independent of the specific plan or project and neighbouring plans or projects. These roads are strategically important and tend to have high volumes of traffic as well as being well represented in traffic models. The air quality assessment should therefore include traffic flows on these roads, but the external trips can be excluded from the initial screening assessment. A justification and explanation of which journeys are included and excluded in the traffic model should be provided.
The conclusions reached on the air pollution impacts of the HRA must be incorporated into the wider HRA conclusions for other impact pathways identified for the proposals.

How to Use this Advice in Decision Making

Provided you have followed the above advice and have been able to conclude there would be no adverse effects on any protected sites we would be able to agree with your decision to authorise the project

Annex C: Passage and wintering bird surveys for functionally linked land associated with the Humber Estuary and/or Lower Derwent Valley designated sites (Version 1.1, December 2021)

Background

The below guidance is intended to inform assessments of proposed development sites in proximity to the Humber Estuary and/or the Lower Derwent Valley designated sites only, where potential impacts from loss of/disturbance to functionally linked land (FLL) have been identified, for example due to presence of suitable habitat (such as arable land/grassland or open waterbodies) and/or relevant bird records and/or local knowledge.

Natural England recommends that surveys are undertaken of the site and surrounding fields to provide an overview of bird usage during wintering and spring/autumn passage periods.

We recommend that the surveys are carried out in line with the following best practice guidance. Where alternative approaches are used, clear justification should be provided.

Please note that recommended survey periods, frequency and design may differ for sites located within the boundaries of Humber Estuary or Lower Derwent Valley designated sites, or in proximity to other designated sites. Please contact Natural England in such cases.

Survey periods and frequency

Natural England recommends that surveys are completed at the following frequency:

- Autumn Passage – two surveys per month between August to October inclusive.
- Winter - two surveys per month between October to March inclusive.
- Spring Passage – two surveys per month between March - Mid-May inclusive.

We advise that spring and autumn passage surveys are completed (in addition to winter surveys) as the Humber Estuary and Lower Derwent Valley SPAs are important for species migrating between breeding and wintering sites. Further advice on seasonality for Humber Estuary SPA and Lower Derwent Valley SPA designated features can be found at Designated Sites View (naturalengland.org.uk) and UK9006092 Lower Derwent Valley SPA Published 14 Sep 2023 (naturalengland.org.uk), respectively.

Weekly visits during the autumn and spring passage periods are recommended where birds are likely to be present in the migration period only, due to high turnover of birds during migration. Note that certain passage species, such as whimbrel associated with the Lower Derwent Valley SPA, may have specific survey requirements due to their migration behaviour. Please discuss such cases with Natural England.

Natural England recommends that two years of wintering and passage surveys should be completed in certain cases to provide a more robust understanding of SPA bird usage on the site and inform design of suitable mitigation, where relevant. This will depend on site-specific factors, for example where proposed development sites:

- are in very close proximity to the designated site/s; and/or
- have a large development footprint; and/or
- are expected/shown to have high bird sensitivity, especially where activity varies significantly between years; and/or
- existing bird records / expert advice demonstrates usage of the site by high numbers of SPA birds.

Please contact Natural England if you are unclear on whether two years of wintering and passage surveys are recommended for this proposal.

Survey design

Wintering/passage surveys should be designed to ensure that results are sufficient to provide a robust picture of distribution, abundance and regularity of use by waterbirds associated with the Humber Estuary and/or Lower Derwent Valley SPAs across the full extent of the proposed development site. Please refer to Annex B and/or Annex B1 for the non-breeding waterbird assemblage list for the Humber Estuary and Lower Derwent Valley SPA, respectively.

A detailed methodology should be included in the relevant report/s, including key information such as number of visits, date and time of visits, viewpoint locations and/or transect routes walked. The survey results should provide some understanding of how the birds use the site (for example, for roosting or foraging) as well as presence/ absence. We would expect to see commentary of birds landing and taking off within and outwith the development site. We also recommend recording birds in flight, particularly if the application may have the potential to affect bird flight lines.

Consideration should also be given to surveys in poor weather/ visibility conditions. Usual survey methodology is to avoid surveying in poor conditions due to potential reduced detectability of birds. However, use can vary in different weather conditions, so it may be helpful to carry on with surveys in poor weather. Weather conditions may affect the results of the surveys and therefore should be considered in assessing the robustness of the dataset.

In addition, details of wider weather conditions should be included, for example, where there may have been a particularly wet or cold season and this may change bird distribution across the area, due to frozen ground etc. Furthermore, a milder autumn may lead to wintering birds arriving later and vice versa in colder autumns.

The methodology should also consider whether the site has any seasonal features such as dips and low-lying areas that retain water at particular times, for example early in the season or in wet years. These areas may have importance for waders at these times, but if surveyed during a drier spell or where full passage/winter surveys have not been completed, it may be possible to underestimate the importance of the site.

For sites in close proximity to the Humber Estuary, the surveys should cover different tidal states. Use of sites closer to the estuary are more likely to be tidally influenced. For sites which may potentially affect high tide roosts, observations should be conducted from two hours before high tide to two hours after high tide. For sites where there are high tide roosts, it may be beneficial to have a series of counts at different heights of tides ('through the tide counts'), as some sites are only used on Spring tides and others are only used on Neap and low tides.

For sites in proximity to the Lower Derwent Valley, the surveys should cover different times of day and different flooding states in the valley. For example, during certain winter periods, the designated site may be extensively flooded and therefore usage of surrounding functionally linked land may be higher for wading birds.

The surveys should cover open arable land/grassland and any waterbodies within the proposed site boundary, as well as land adjacent to the development that could be affected and provides the potential to support designated site species. Where a site is adjacent to the Humber Estuary designated site, additional considerations may be required, for example

ensuring adequate surveys of intertidal habitats. Please contact Natural England in such cases.

Surveys may also need to take account of surveys at dusk and dawn, depending upon the bird species (i.e. geese and swans). If geese and swans have the potential to use the development site or surrounding area, we would expect to see surveys 1 hour before and 1 hour after, dusk and dawn during the respective bird survey season (i.e. winter, spring and autumn passage (as above)). These surveys should be in addition to the standard daytime survey but can be carried out on the same day. For example, a dawn survey to count geese or swans at their night-time roost could then extend into a survey of daytime use of fields for foraging.

Natural England generally recommends that observations from vantage points (VP) are used. VP surveys are considered preferable to walkover surveys for observing behaviour of birds on the ground (i.e., whether they are foraging/loafing etc.), and to minimise the risk of flushing birds due to movement of a surveyor during a walkover survey. Also, birds which may otherwise have landed in the field during the survey period may be unlikely to do so with the presence of a moving surveyor. If landscape features mean it is not possible to avoid walking through part of the survey area to get from one point count to another, this should be noted and the reaction of any birds present recorded, including any that are flushed.

Further guidance on vantage point surveys can be found at Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore windfarms | NatureScot. Natural England recognises that the NatureScot VP guidance is written for impacts associated with wind turbines. However, Natural England considers that the survey guidance detailed in Section 3.7 provides an appropriate methodology to identify distribution and abundance of birds to inform the assessment of other developments. We acknowledge that some of the information regarding the required watch hours and height considerations etc will not be relevant in the context of other developments. Therefore, site-specific considerations should be taken into account when designing the survey methods.

Where VP surveys are not considered appropriate for a particular site, clear reasoning and justification regarding the alternative survey methods undertaken should be provided.

Natural England has generally advised that if ≥1% of a Humber Estuary bird species population could be affected by a proposal, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, then further consideration is required. However, where species are particularly vulnerable due to declines in the Humber population, then it may not be appropriate to rely on the 1% of the estuary population as the critical threshold. Mitigation measures may be required where lower numbers of vulnerable species are using a site that is proposed for development.

Nocturnal surveys

Wader and waterfowl usage of arable land/grassland outside designated sites can be substantially different at night. Therefore, Natural England recommends nocturnal surveys are also carried out if waders and/or waterfowl have the potential to use the development site. These surveys should be in addition to the standard daytime surveys. We recommend that several visits should be completed to determine if the site and/or surrounding areas play a regular role in supporting SPA species at night. Night vision/infra-red equipment and survey on moonlit nights can establish presence of nocturnal species or presence and direction of feeding/migration movements both by calls and by sight[1].

Guidance on nocturnal surveys can be found at Nocturnal bird surveys | Bird Survey Guidelines. The nocturnal survey design should take this guidance into account, and the approach should be justifiable in the assessment. It should be noted that for most species nocturnal activity is likely to be underestimated in any attempted survey[1].

[1] Scottish Natural Heritage: Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore wind farms (March 2017- Version 2).

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02 April 2026

Planning Inspectorate
Infrastructure Decisions and Applications Service
Planning Inspectorate
c/o Quadient
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough
SL1 4PN

Sent via email to:
H2East@Planninginspectorate.go.uk

Dear Ms Harper,

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Cadent Gas Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the proposed development)

Scoping consultation and notification of the applicant's contact details and duty to make available information to the applicant if requested

Scoping Consultation

Thank you for your consultation request which was received by this Authority on 6th March 2026, with a request for comments by the Council by 3rd April 2026 on the Scoping Opinion due to the Council being identified as a relevant 'consultation body' defined in The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

As a consultation body Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC), wishes to make the following comments regarding information to be provided with the Environmental Statement (ES). The comments enclosed are made following the structure of the Cadent Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report Volume 1 & 2 dated March 2026.

Reference/ Pages	Description	NSDC's Comments
Chapter 1 Pg. 1-1 – 1-8	**Introduction**	NSDC agrees with the applicant and their interpretation at para 1.3.1 that the development falls under Part 14(1)(f) ('the construction of a pipe-line by a gas transporter') of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) if it was for blended gas into the existing gas network. However, accepts their request for a Section 35 direction for the Scheme to be treated as development of national significance. An application for Development Consent under Section 37 of the PA 2008 will be submitted. In the absence of an EIA Screening Opinion, NSDC considers the Development is likely to have significant effects on the environment and agrees with the Applicant's intention that they will submit an Environmental Statement (ES) for the proposed development with their application (para. 1.3.2).
Chapter 2 Pg. 2-1 – 2-38	**The Project**	NSDC recognises the importance of the project and the benefits of responding to the global climate emergency and by doing so reducing the CO2 emissions to the atmosphere. No further comments to make.
Chapter 3 Pg. 3-1 – 3-13	**Legislation, Policy and Guidance Overview**	We note at Table 3.4 that the NSDC Development Plan is stated. What is not stated is that our Amended Allocations and Development Management DPD was examined in November 2024 and subsequent main modifications have been made since and we are expecting the Inspectors Report for adoption in April 2026. NSDC are currently working on its new local plan to follow the new Local Plan making Regulations (2026) and have submitted our Regulation 19 notification accordingly on 31 March 2026. It is expected that Adoption would be 2nd April 2028, which aligns with the expected DCO submission. As the Plan moves through the Gateways and following Examination, the Plan will carry more weight and should therefore be taken into consideration through the development phases. We can provide details of our expected timetable for the Applicant if required.
Chapter 4 Pg. 4-1 – 4-20	**The EIA Process**	No observations.

Chapter 5 Pg. 5-1 – 5-62	**Biodiversity**	The list of interrelationships is comprehensive, and we welcome that Air Quality will consider potential impacts on ecological receptors. It is encouraging that the respective chapters listed at paragraph 5.1.3 also cross-reference the Biodiversity chapter with respect to Secondary Effects. Section 5.3 - Where appropriate, I consider that use should be made of the Nottinghamshire Local Wildlife Site (LWS) Handbook as part of the assessment process to determine ecological importance. 3.2. I also consider that use should be made of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Local Nature Recovery Strategy https://nottsnaturerecovery.co.uk/index.php which was published in November 2025. This will be of relevance in assigning the strategic significance levels should a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment be provided. Paragraph 5.3.3 acknowledged the Government's ongoing consultation on the implementation of BNG for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP). The Government had intended for BNG to become mandatory for NSIPs in May 2026, but this now seems unlikely. The scoping report states that the formal guidance for how BNG will apply to NSIPS in Summer 2026 and once available the Project team will review and consider any implications. We would consider this to be a risky strategy given that some form of BNG requirement will likely be required ahead of the intended formal submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) in 2028. I would encourage the Project team to consider providing a BNG assessment that utilises the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and follow the principles and processes associated with the legislation for mandatory BNG for non NSIP developments. Or at least to consider undertaking some of the additional baseline surveys that are likely to be required. The proposed habitat assessments as referenced below do not include any reference to Habitat Condition Assessments which would form an integral part of any BNG calculation. These should be completed using the published Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments at an appropriate time of the year for the specific habitat types, to enable accurate assessment of the relevant condition assessment criteria. Depending on the route taken this is also likely to require MoRPh surveys of main rivers and potentially some other ordinary watercourses. NSDC Ecology Team should form part of the Key Consultees listed at para 5.4.2, due to local knowledge. A small portion of the Scoping Limits to the north of Wellow Park SSSI falls within a 5km

		radius of an area where there might be a future classification as a Special Protection Area, hereafter referred to as a possible potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA), for its breeding bird (specifically nightjar and woodlark) interest. Because this is neither a formal designation or a potential SPA, it is frequently missed by the usual desk study procedures and is missing from Table 5.2. Natural England have produced an Advice Note which details a risk-based approach for developments within the ppSPA area to consider potential impacts on breeding nightjar and woodlark. In this instance the Scoping Limits is 3.1km away from the closest RSBP Important Bird Area (IBA) and I consider that the majority of the habitats within the vicinity would be unsuitable to support these species as they comprise mostly arable land. However, for completeness and avoidance of doubt I would recommend that this is given consideration within the Environmental Statement, and it should be possible to do this succinctly because of the area and habitat types likely to be involved. With regard to Table 5.14, further clarification is needed on the definition of a 'habitat parcel', particularly in relation to the proposal for a single visit to each parcel, with multiple data collection points for larger or more complex habitats. It would be helpful to understand whether the approach involves surveying every distinct field compartment or habitat type or whether a sampling method is proposed, such as surveying a defined proportion of each habitat type. Botanical Survey - The proposed timings of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys for grassland are for June to July 2026 and / or 2027. Dependant upon the prevailing weather conditions it may be beneficial to include a late May survey to ensure early flowering species are captured within the assessment. Reptile survey - Table 5.14 indicates that Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessments for reptiles will only be carried out once the UKHab dataset is completed in 2026. Although targeted reptile surveys are proposed for May to September 2026 and/or 2027, it is unclear whether these surveys would take place only after the UKHab dataset is finalised. If this reference relates to the completion of field surveys, it should be noted that the habitat surveys may not conclude until September 2026, in which surveys in 2026 would be unlikely, and it is also unclear whether the HSI assessment is intended to inform the selection of reptile survey locations. If the reptile surveys are to be based on the desktop data then this may be appropriate. However, table 5.14 also states that targeted surveys would be limited to suitable

		grassland habitats only. Given the presence of the River Trent corridor and a network of drains and ditches, I would expect grass snake to be present within the Scoping Limits and these habitats are currently not proposed to be surveyed. Bat surveys - I agree with the statement in Table 5.14 that 'Climb and Inspect Surveys' represent the preferred approach for conducting further assessments of potential bat roosts. For the alternative 'Emergence Survey of Trees' methodology it is stated that up to three visits may be required depending on the value of the potential roosting features present. In line with the good practice guidelines4 I would suggest that up to three climbing visits may be required depending upon the suitability of the tree following the initial climbing inspection. Further clarification is required regarding the frequency of Bat Activity Automated Surveys. The methodology state that static bat detectors would be deploy seasonally (spring, summer and autumn) but the potential timing does state April to October 2026 and / or 2027. If surveys are to be seasonal as opposed to monthly further rationale should be provided, particularly as the scoping report does not include an indicative suitability of the habitats present for foraging and commuting bats. The overall suitability of the Scoping Limits will be important in terms of determining a proportionate survey effort for bat activity surveys. Although the landscape is predominantly arable, as there is a good network of hedgerows, drains, ditches and interspersed pockets of woodland I consider this represents a landscape likely to be used extensively by bats for foraging and commuting. The River Trent, which passes through the southern extent of the Scoping Limits, is likely to form an important foraging and commuting linear feature for the local bat assemblage. No other activity types are suggested. Whilst the impacts may be localised and acknowledging that the survey effort needs to be proportional, I would consider there should be some consideration of 'night-time bat walkover' (NBW) surveys to give context to the automated static detector surveys. This may be of particular importance to detect important commuting corridors for less common species which are light sensitive, particularly barbastelle. This species is particularly important within the Newark and Sherwood District being at the northern extent of its known range in Nottinghamshire. In the absence of additional survey work to address this comment or further justification, I consider it is likely when the Environmental Statement has been

		prepared, that it will be my view that insufficient survey effort has been undertaken for bat activity to form a reliable baseline, and subsequent assessment of effects for this species group. Significance Evaluation Methodology Paragraph 5.6.1 states that the EIA will follow the overarching methodology outlined in Chapter 4 and acknowledges that specific topics, including biodiversity, may deviate from the approach. It is noted that Chapter 5 diverges from the methodology set out in Chapter 4 regarding the determination of effect significance. Specifically, the assessment does not apply the generic matrix presented in Table 4.4. The chapter goes on to outline the impact assessment methodology, which follows the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA). While NSDC accepts the use of these guidelines, we believe that the rationale for departing from the generic matrix, proposed across all other ES chapters except Chapter 5, has not been adequately justified. White-Clawed Crayfish Though populations of protected, priority and other invertebrates with a conservation designation are included within the list of Key Receptors, Chapter 5 makes no specific reference to white-clawed crayfish surveys. Given the presence of watercourses within the scoping limits I would consider that these should be assessed for their potential to support this species and where works are required that there should be consideration of the use of eDNA surveys.
Chapter 6 Pg. 6-1 – 6-36	**Historic Environment**	See comments in Chapter 3 on the policy section. NSDC agree with the scope at para 6.5.3 being within 1km of the Study Area although the visual impact on designated built heritage assets may be wider than that. The Archaeological impact, NSDC would expect Nottinghamshire County Council to comment on, due to their in-house expertise. <u>For information</u> The proposed HAGI search area to the north of Weston would be located roughly 1.2km north of the Church of All Saints, and therefore within its wider setting. The church and heritage assets here are within the outer reaches of the 1km buffer zone. The majority of this search area is located within Bassetlaw, only a few fields near the junction of

		Hawbush Road and Tuxford Road are included within this search area within the district, so it is likely that the HAGI would sit within Bassetlaw District. The landscape is gently undulating here above the Trent valley, and views are broken by hedgerows so it is likely that any impacts to the setting of designated heritage assets in Weston can be mitigated by landscaping. The HAGI search area between Laxton and Kirton for the Forterra site includes a large swathe of the Laxton Conservation Area, which was expanded in 2022 to include the historic open-field system. West Field is included within the HAGI search area, which would be entirely inappropriate for the above ground infrastructure. The open field system makes Laxton unique. How these furlongs were laid out needed to take farming practices, access and drainage into consideration. This has resulted in a unique agricultural system and a very distinctive landscape. The open-field system is edged by grass sykes. Manorial rules through the Court Leet prohibit the use of fertilizer or damage to these areas. Consequently, these areas have been untouched for centuries and have significant archaeological potential. Some of these areas have been designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the ecological significance. Careful consideration of the route and siting of infrastructure is vital therefore in safeguarding this historic landscape. The agricultural setting of the Laxton and Kirton Conservation Areas contributes to their character. The Moated fishpond complex is excluded from the search area, however its immediate environs is included. It is considered that the siting of a HAGI is such close proximity to the moated site would harm its rural setting. Views from Laxton's Castle are widespread across the agricultural landscape terminating in the woodlands once part of Sherwood Forest. It is recommended that the proposed HAGI is positioned to the west of Kirton Wood and Golden Hill and to the east of the railway line to reduce the impacts to the historic landscape setting of the conservation areas and their heritage assets. Kirton sits at the foot of the hill within the rolling landscape, a HAGI site in close proximity to the village would be harmful to its agricultural setting. The third HAGI site search area is located to the north-west of Kelham. Kelham is conservation area with 16 listed buildings, including the grade I listed Kelham Hall, an impressive gothic revival country house designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, and the Church of

		St Wilfrid with origins to the 14th century, which benefit from a riverside parkland setting amidst an agricultural landscape. The topography of the search area is varied, including the Trent valley and the Kelham hills. A HAGI site on the hills could appear unduly prominent within the landscape, however the woodland may provide sufficient natural screening and distance from the nearby heritage assets at Kelham and South Muskham. Equally, the flat land between Ollerton Road and Kelham Lane may provide a suitable site with suitable screening in a less sensitive location to the surrounding heritage assets. The HAGI at British Sugar is unlikely to cause harm to nearby designated heritage assets if this is within the existing site compound. The British Sugar site is set back over 100m from Great North Road and Smeaton's Arches (II). A considerable buffer to the Civil War redoubts (SAM) south and east of the sugar factory, is likely to remain from the sugar factory and HAGI complex. The Scoping Report Archaeology Assets Section D has certain significant omissions, including the former RAF Ossington Airfield and associated sites, the Laxton Conservation Area should also be shown as this is a sensitive historic agricultural field system. The location of the Block Valve Installations (BVIs) remains unclear at this stage. Considerations would need to include their frequency within a landscape resulting in cumulative impacts, as well as their design including boundary treatments and landscaping. Any noise impacts from the above ground installations will also need to be considered to understand the potential impacts to the character and setting of scoped heritage assets. NSDC welcomes the commitments as outlined in Table 6.9: Relevant Commitments to Historic Environment, and would welcome the input into the relevant documents. Impact ID HE-07 relates to groundworks causing the removal/ truncation of buried archaeological remains. This has been scoped out in table 6.11 and we would suggest that this be scoped in. Though we would defer to heritage input from relevant stakeholders for guidance on this matter. NSDC have no further comments.

Chapter 7 Pg. 7-1 – 7-41	**Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Flood Risk**	NSDC note that the scope of assessment but trust that the Project takes in to account the flooding issues experienced around Newark and the rest of the District, especially from surface water flooding. Para 7.2.3 states the statutory consultees consulted, however NSDC would welcome the inclusion of the Lead Local Flood Authority, Canals and Rivers Trust and the Internal Drainage Boards to those consultees. See comments in Chapter 3 on the policy section. We note the applicant's intent at section 1.7.11 to include Flood Risk Assessments alongside the application for Development Consent. We support this given the fact that the northern and southern points of the River Trent fall into flood zones 2 and 3. However, we would like this intent to be detailed in table 7.14 to ensure clarity. We support the inclusion of the majority of subtopics in table 7.14. However, impact IDs WE-04, WE-08 and WE-011, should address more project aspects. For instance, WE-04 should address all above ground infrastructure. As with WE-011, project ID WE-08 should address TCCs, Pipeline and all above ground infrastructure as this project id relates to leakages. Again, we would however ultimately defer to relevant stakeholders for input on this matter. NSDC have no further comments.
Chapter 8 Pg. 8-1 – 8-33	**Landscape and Visual**	See comments in Chapter 3 on the policy section. Table 8.1:Legislation, Policy and Guidance Applicable to Landscape and Visual, fails to acknowledge the Councils Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document which forms part of the Council's Development Plan. Although this is not a high level character assessment it would help to establish local character as opposed to just National Character areas. It is noted that this is acknowledged in Table 8:2 Sources of Landscape and Visual Data. The LVIA around Newark should also take in to account the committed A46 Newark Bypass scheme and the infrastructure works around Newark Cattle Market which will change the landscape character.

		NSDC have no further comments.
Chapter 9 Pg. 9-1 – 9-31	**Air Quality**	In relation to Air Quality, suitable guidance and standards have been identified for the assessment. Suitable study scoping areas have been proposed and receptors identified. We would ask that NSDC are consulted upon the CEMP, so that the content can be agreed, prior to the commencement of any works.
Chapter 10 Pg. 10-1 – 10-34	**Noise and Vibration**	In relation to Noise & Vibration, suitable guidance and standards have been identified for the assessment. Suitable study scoping areas have been proposed and receptors identified. The assessment of activities to be scoped in/ out would appear suitable, but may need reviewing as details of the development are finalised. Appropriate mitigation in the forms of Construction Environment Management Plans, dust Management Plans, and Noise and Vibration Management Plans are proposed to be developed and submitted. The documents do not make it clear whether hydrogen gas requires odourisation for safety purposes as natural gas does. If so, the mechanism by which the odourant is stored and added to the system will require discussion/ assessment. We would ask that as with Air Quality, NSDC are consulted upon the CEMP, so that the content can be agreed, prior to the commencement of any works. In respect of working hours, NSDC consider a best practice approach for construction working hours to commence no earlier than 07:30 Mon- Fri and 08:00 Saturdays. If works are required outside of these working hours, then NSDC would recommend a mechanism within the CEMP to notify the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) and agree any works taking place outside of these hours.
Chapter 11 Pg. 11-1 – 11-35	**Traffic and Transport**	NSDC would expect this to be covered by Nottinghamshire County Council as the Highway Authority. However, it maybe worth considering a consultation on the Project with National Highways given the proximity to the A46 Newark bypass Scheme which has been granted DCO approval.

Chapter 12 Pg. 12-1 – 12-45	**Ground Conditions**	No comments to make.
Chapter 13 Pg. 13-1 – 13-32	**Agriculture and Soil Resources**	No comments to make.
Chapter 14 Pg. 14-1 – 14-44	**Population and Communities**	No comments to make but would welcome recruitment of appropriate workforce from the local communities/employees.
Chapter 15 Pg. 15-1 – 15-37	**Major Incidents and Disasters**	No comments to make.
Chapter 16 Pg. 16-1 – 16 - 38	**Climate Change**	No comments to make.
16.7.13 – 16.8.4	**Cumulative Effects, other effects and Conclusion**	NSDC welcome the intention of the applicant to consult with the council on the definition of a full list of 'committed' developments, for the purpose of cumulative assessment. We would be happy to provide assistance on this point in due course.
Chapter 17 Pg. 17-1 – 17-12	**Summary**	No comments to make.
	NSDC Summary	Subject to the comments above, NSDC is generally in agreement with the proposed scope of the ES.

Please consider the comments made above to constitute Newark & Sherwood District Council's formal consultation response under Regulations 10 and 11 of the EIA Regulations.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Senior Planner
Planning Development Business Unit
Newark and Sherwood District Council

From: [redacted]@newark.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 March 2026 15:01
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: Consultation Response

Dear Sirs

At this early stage in the process I wish to identify the following information that my Council would welcome sight of at a later stage:

1. Specific locations of the pipeline.
2. Methodology for install.
3. Impact of install works on the highway.
4. Conflicts with the dualling works for the A46 at Newark (if any).
5. Environmental Impact Assessments.
6. Noise Impact Assessment.
7. Traffic Management for site access.
8. Likely process for businesses to access the Hydrogen.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Town Clerk

[redacted]

[redacted]@newark.gov.uk

Newark Town Council

Town Hall, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 1DU

Please consider the environment. Do you really need to print this email?

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
www.nelincs.gov.uk

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) – Regulations 10 and 11

Application by Cadent Gas Limited (the applicant) for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire (the proposed development)

Response to the EIA Scoping from North East Lincolnshire Council.

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the submitted EIA Scoping report provided by the Applicant. On the whole NELC are content with the scope of the proposed EIA, responses from internal consultees are provided at the bottom of this letter.

NELC would like to highlight the importance of fully understanding and considering the extent of any Hazardous Zones associated with the development and the land use planning implications of such zones. This should be through consultation with the Health and Safety Executive.

Your faithfully,

[redacted]

[redacted]
Senior Town Planner

North East Lincolnshire Council
Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square, Grimsby, DN31 1HU
Tel: 01472 326289 (option 1)
E-mail: planning@nelincs.gov.uk

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
www.nelincs.gov.uk

NELC would like to take the opportunity to highlight the significant number of Development Consent Orders within its jurisdiction and how these, including this one, would interrelate with all other planned projects. It is felt that care should be given to consider these when considering this development.

Consultation Responses

Economic Development

It would be prudent that this scoping request fully assesses the project's interaction with local industrial clusters, regeneration priorities, future employment land, and wider infrastructure plans. This should cover socio-economic benefits, skills and supply chain opportunities, impacts on developable land, cumulative effects with Humber energy transition projects, and potential constraints arising from pipeline safeguarding and ground installations. Environmental topics including BNG, flood risk, and land quality should be integrated with any local regeneration strategies. This will ensure the project's national significance also can align with North East Lincolnshire's long-term economic and place-based growth objectives.

[redacted], *Economy and Funding Specialist*

Public Rights of Way Officer

There isn't anything that needs to be added from a Public Rights of Way perspective.

[redacted], *Public Rights of Way Mapping Officer*

Trees and Woodlands Officer

1. Both documents set out a standard methodology for assessing the visual impact of the proposal, this is acceptable for potential impact on NEL.
2. The proposal is likely to have a limited medium to long term visual impact on NEL. However, that is not to say the project will have no meaningful visual impact as it is not clear as to the exact location of the 50m wide construction zone within the corridor demarcated by the red line.
3. Whilst I do not envisage the LVIA highlighting any major issues for NEL the viewpoint location will be interesting.
4. I note there is likely to be at least one permanent above ground site, within NEL, that is proposed to be ameliorated by hedges. I have no issue with the principle; however, I reserve a final position on appropriate landscaping until is see the proposed locations.

[redacted], *Trees and Woodlands Officer*

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
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Drainage Officer

- Within the description of the surface water management plan, it says that a drainage strategy *may* be provided. We would like to see a drainage strategy for all permanent above ground infrastructure, within NE Lincs, which incorporates sustainable drainage features.
- While the design life of the infrastructure is 40 years, it mentions that it may be extended. I just want to confirm that within the drainage designs, they should be looking at the 100-year storms with a 40% climate change allowance, given that the infrastructure may be round longer than anticipated at this stage.
- It mentions throughout that they are in contact with the internal drainage boards, and it seems like they have a solid grasp of the legislative requirements, I'd just like to mention that outside of the IDB districts, NELC is the land drainage authority and would be consenting on any works to ordinary watercourses outside of the IDBs districts. Some authorities (like LCC) have transferred these duties over to the IDBs, we have not.

[redacted], *Drainage Engineer*

Environmental Health

Having reviewed the Scoping Report the Environmental Protection Team are content with the information provided in terms of Chapter 9 Air Quality, Chapter 10 Noise and Chapter 12 Ground Conditions.

Environmental Protection Team, Regulation and Sustainability

Heritage and Conservation

The information in the heritage assessment/EIA needs to provide sufficient evidence to understand the impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets and their settings, sufficient to meet the requirements of paragraph 200 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The National Planning Policy Framework states that 'Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation' (para 207).

We would expect the EIA to contain a full archaeological evaluation report which explores in the first place non-intrusive evaluation of the site, and, if this suggests that further information is required we would expect intrusive evaluation in the form of trial trenching to further inform the heritage impact statement as to presence/absence/ location, depth, survival and significance of any remains. This should inform a suitable mitigation strategy for the impact.

In addition to the underground remains we would expect a report on the potential impact on the historic landscape. North East Lincolnshire has had Historic Landscape Characterisation undertaken and this should be consulted.

Regarding setting issues, potential impacts on the settings and significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets which would experience visual change should be evidenced using accurate visual representations. Viewpoints, including views of, from, and across heritage asset receptors as well as general intervisibility, all have historic context and need to be assessed properly to determine the contribution of the setting of the heritage asset and the potential impact upon it by development or proposed mitigation measures.

The NPPF states that 'Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. ' (para 213) and also ' the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application.' (para 216)

The Environmental Impact Assessment/Heritage Assessment should contain sufficient information to enable an informed planning decision to be made.

Use of AI in any form in reports/assessments/images must be clearly stated and referenced.

[redacted], *Heritage Officer*

Highways and Transport

At this stage there is nothing for the Highway Authority to comment and we will await the relevant documentation in due course.

[redacted], *Senior Highway Development Control Officer*

I have been unable to obtain a comment from the Ecology Officer currently; however, we note the intent to provide a suite of ecology information including the Habitat Regulations Assessment. It is important that the position in relation to the Humber Estuary is fully understood and assessed to determine any likely significant effects and as set out impacts adequately captured in any Appropriate Assessment. We look forward to receiving the full documentation in due course.

Other Matters

The commentary on the Local Plan Review is noted. For reference the draft plan is being worked on and the Regulation 19 consultation is expected late summer/early autumn with submission expected December 2026.

From: Planning and Consents <planning@witham3idb.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 March 2026 13:08
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: EN0610001 - H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

ND-7298-2026-PLN

UD-7299-2026-PLN

Dear Sir/Madam

EN0610001

H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire

EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. Section A of the pipeline is partly within the North East Lindsey Drainage Board area. The pipeline crosses a number of Board maintained watercourses. Maps and shape files are available on request.

Section C of the pipeline is partly within the Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board district which is also administered from this office. The pipeline crosses a number of Board maintained watercourses. Maps and shape files are available on request.

Outside the Drainage Board districts, but within the watershed to them, in Lincolnshire the various Drainage Board's also act as agent for Lincolnshire CC for Land Drainage Consent under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991. Maps and shape files are available on request.

To replace the normal Land Drainage Consent process and Byelaw Consent process for Board maintained watercourses, provision mirroring this needs to be included in the DCO to ensure flood risk in not increased and flows are maintained. This includes temporary works within and adjacent to watercourses as well as the permanent works. Please contact North East Lindsey Drainage Board and Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board using this email address to discuss how this can be done.

I. *Under the terms of the Land Drainage Act. 1991 the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures within any watercourse including infilling or a diversion.*

II. *Under the terms of the Board's Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures in, under, over or within the byelaw 9m distance of the top of the bank of a Board maintained watercourse. The full 9m is expected to be kept clear of obstructions to allow maintenance access.*

III. *For areas in Lincolnshire under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts. For some of the route the Boards acts as Agents for the Lead Local Flood Authority and as such any works, permanent or temporary, in any ditch, dyke or other such watercourse will require consent from the Board.* Including *North East Lindsey Drainage Board and Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board.*

It is noted the documents contain various appropriate references to watercourses, watercourse crossings and the associated works and construction.

Regards

[redacted]

Planning and Consents Officer

Normal working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and alternate Mondays..

enquiries@witham3idb.gov.uk

accounts@witham3idb.gov.uk

planning@witham3idb.gov.uk

consents@witham3idb.gov.uk

Witham First District Internal Drainage Board

Witham Third District Internal Drainage Board

Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board

North East Lindsey Drainage Board

Witham House,

Meadow Lane

North Hykeham,

LINCOLN,

LN6 9QU (for sat nav use LN6 9TP)

Tel: [redacted]

Four independent statutory Land Drainage and Flood Risk Management Authorities working in partnership.

www.witham3idb.gov.uk

From: Before You Dig <BeforeYouDig@northerngas.co.uk>
Sent: 06 March 2026 11:45
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: Before You Dig <BeforeYouDig@northerngas.co.uk>
Subject: RE: EXT:EN0610001 - H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> You don't often get email from beforeyoudig@northerngas.co.uk. Learn why this is important

Northern Gas Networks do not cover this area.

Please use this online tool to find out which gas distribution network you need to contact:

https://findmygdn.co.uk/

Kind Regards

[redacted]

Before You Dig: 0800 040 7766 (option 3)

www.northerngasnetworks.co.uk

facebook.com/northerngasnetworks

twitter.com/ngngas

Alternative contact:

beforeyoudig@northerngas.co.uk


together
we are
the network

This matter is being dealt with by:
[redacted]
T [redacted]
E [redacted]@nottscc.gov.uk
W nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Nottinghamshire County Council

Sent via email to
H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

FAO Jessica Harper

2nd April 2026

Dear Jessica

Ref: Application by Cadent Gas Limited for an Order granting Development Consent for the H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - EIA Scoping Consultation

Thank you for your letter dated 6th March 2026 requesting the observations of the County Council on the information which it considers should be provided in the Environmental Statement for the proposed H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire. The County Council is a host authority for this proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and, having reviewed the scoping report, has the following comments to make on the scope of the ES relating to its areas of interest.

General Comments

It should be noted that the identified route corridor overlaps considerably with the order limits of other proposed NSIPs in the county including the One Earth Solar Farm (post examination) and Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (under examination). It will be important for the cumulative assessment to take account of these schemes and for the applicants to engage with one another.

Minerals and Waste

The adopted Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan (adopted March 2021) alongside the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan (adopted 2025), form part of the development plan for Section D and a small part of Section C of the proposal. However, neither of the Plans are identified within Chapter 3.4, with none of the relevant policies from either Plan outlined within Tables 3.1 to 3.5, which identifies Local Policies. This should be rectified as the proposal moves forward. We have identified below the relevant policies from the Minerals and Waste Local Plans that should be considered as well as commenting on the proposed assessment for this project.

Minerals

From the Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan, Policy SP7: Minerals Safeguarding, Consultation Areas and Associated Minerals Infrastructure would be of relevance. This is because parts of the current identified corridor for Section C and D, which we note is a wider area than the final pipeline route, which is yet to be determined, fall within the Mineral Safeguarding and Consultation Area (MSA/MCA) for sand and gravel and brick clay. The proposed corridor also crosses two permitted and allocated mineral sites, Girton Quarry and Kirton Brickworks. Both the MSA/MCAs and permitted sites can be viewed on our interactive map. These issues are discussed further below.

Mineral Resource Safeguarding

In terms of the MSA/MCA, clause 2 and 3 of Policy SP7 are of relevance which requires:

2. Non-minerals development within minerals safeguarding areas will have to demonstrate that mineral resources will not be needlessly sterilised as a result of the development and that the development would not pose a serious hindrance to future extraction in the vicinity.

3. Where this cannot be demonstrated, and where there is a clear and demonstrable need for the non-minerals development, prior extraction will be sought where practicable.

These two clauses should be addressed in any statement which considers local policies.

It is noted that the presence of the MSA/MCA for sand and gravel and brick clay has been noted within the EIA Scoping Report Volume 2, within Chapter 12 – Ground Conditions. This is welcomed by the Council as is concluding that the potential impacts on minerals deposits which are safeguarded by the Plan will be scoped into the assessment for ground conditions. The Council is supportive of the proposed assessment, providing that this also includes consideration and assessment of the potential impacts on the permitted and active mineral extraction sites which are discussed below.

Active mineral extraction sites

In relation to the potential impact on the permitted Girton and Kirton quarry, the promoter should address clause 6 of Policy SP7 which states:

6. Where non-minerals development would cause an unacceptable impact on the development, operation or restoration of a permitted minerals site, mineral allocation, or associated minerals infrastructure, suitable mitigation should be provided by the applicant prior to the completion of the development.

In relation to Girton quarry, which is allocated in the Plan under Policy MP2g, as identified in Chapter 12 of the EIA Scoping Chapters Report Volume 2, part of Section C/D near South Clifton covers the northern permitted area of Girton quarry. The report notes that the site is currently mothballed and working only stockpiles which is correct, but it should be noted that the site has permission to extract sand and gravel until 2035 (permission reference 3/16/01341/CMM). It is appreciated that the current corridor indicated is larger than what the final pipeline will be and so it may be that the final pipeline route does not affect the permitted quarry. The Council would expect the applicant to consider the presence of the permitted and allocated quarry in the assessment of impacts on minerals as well as in any final decision for the pipeline route, noting clause 6 of Policy SP7, and that the presence of a pipeline in this location would impact operations of the quarry and the permitted restoration. We would recommend that Tarmac, the operator, is contacted for any future discussions of the pipeline location.

In regard to Kirton quarry, which is allocated in the Plan under Policy MP6a, the HAGI Search Area near Kirton within Section D covers the current permitted extraction area. This is not picked up within Chapter 12 of the Scoping Report, Volume 2. It is recognised that Forterra, who operates Kirton, wishes to build infrastructure for hydrogen facilities for use within their kilns at the brickworks. It should though be noted that there are significant permitted reserves at the site yet to be extracted and there is an agreed restoration and aftercare period for the extraction area, as per the conditions attached to the planning permission. The permitted reserves, agreed restoration and aftercare along with potential future extraction should then be considered as the HAGI area is refined as well as within the assessment of potential impacts on minerals. The Council would be happy to discuss these issues moving forward with the promoter and Forterra.

Waste Policy

In relation to the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan, two policies are of relevance which are highlighted in turn below.

Policy SP1

Policy SP1: Waste prevention and re-use requests:

> *All new development should be designed, constructed, and operated to minimise the creation of waste, maximise the use of recycled materials, and assist with the collection, separation, sorting, recycling and recovery of waste arising from the development during its use.*

The promoter notes that the project will generate a range of waste throughout its life, though primarily within the construction stage. Throughout all stages of the development, including the decommissioning of the HAGI Infrastructure, waste is sought to be minimised, with a strategy to be developed to manage this waste through the outline Materials Management Plan which will be submitted alongside the application for development consent order. The promoter also states how the Environmental Statement will provide detail on the types and quantities of waste expected to be produced during construction and set out nearby waste facilities which could handle this waste. The County Council welcomes this approach and consider that this would satsify Policy SP1 as well as National Policy which seeks to minimise waste and handle waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.

Policy SP8

Policy SP8: Safeguarding Waste Management Sites of the Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Local Plan seeks to safeguard permitted and active waste management facilities. Within the preferred route corridor of Section D, there are 4 active waste sites which fall within the area:

- British Sugar, Newark
- Briggs Metal, Newark
- Dean Hall Anaerobic Digestor, Caunton
- Tuxford Anaerobic Digestor, south of Tuxford
- J G Pears, Low Marnham

Again, it is noted that the preferred route identified is a broader area under consideration for the pipeline, with the final route to be much smaller. The County Council therefore wish to raise the presence of these waste facilities and the importance of their safeguarding which should be considered within any future refinement of the final route.

Summary

Overall, the County Council welcomes that potential impact on mineral deposits has been scoped into the assessment on ground conditions and the approach to handling waste arisings. The Council would ask that the impact on both the safeguarded minerals as well as the permitted extraction sites is considered within the assessment. The mineral resource and permitted mineral sites alongside the permitted waste management facilities should also be considered as the pipeline route and HAGI areas are refined.

Historic Environment

Built Heritage

Chapter 8 - In the absence of a ZTV it is not possible to confirm whether the assessment provided in appendix 6 regarding listed building and conservation area DHAs should be scoped out at this stage. Paragraph 8.8.6 of Chapter 8 (Landscape and Visual) indicates:

The identification of landscape and visual receptors will be further refined through consultation and ZTV analysis. This will be undertaken following completion of the preliminary Project design and confirmation of routing and above ground installation locations.

The preceding paragraph (8.8.5) does not note listed buildings as visual 'receptors'. It will be important to the evidence of LSE that the listed buildings and conservation areas that are 'scoped in' for full assessment are included as receptors.

As a result of the above factors, regarding Chapter 6, and 'Appendix 6A: Designated Heritage Assets – Asset Sift' it is not possible to accurately sift-out DHAs from the assessment, for instance:

- 1156929 Old Hall Farm House (grade II*) is sifted out. This was originally built as a Tudor hunting lodge on the edge of Kneesall and retains important views outwards over the surrounding landscape which clearly contribute to its special interest. It should be included in the detailed assessment.
- Egmanton conservation area within the 1km scoping boundary is showing as scoped out, and Laxton falls partially within the scoping boundary, these DHAs should be scoped in.

It is very difficult to agree/disagree with all the decisions made in Appendix 6A. The Figures 6.1 in Chapter 6 do not identify all the HAs using the numbering system of the Appendix 6A, which also contributed to making this a challenge.

The preference is for the LViA ZTV to be produced and for this to enable the assessment of what HAs should be scoped-in or sifted-out from setting impact analysis. This could then feed into the decision on which HAs to include as receptors for the visualisations and avoid us having to request additional photo montage work at a later stage. I am in agreement that isolated farm and churches should be scoped-in (most of these are, but not all) to reflect the potential for impact on their agrarian settings.

Buried Heritage

The project proposes the construction of a 150km hydrogen pipeline between Immingham and Newark. The scoping document considers impacts to the Historic Environment in Chapter 6 (both archaeology and cultural heritage) and sets out the proposed approach for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to inform the Environmental Statement (ES) chapter on heritage. The application will be to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

The preferred route (Section 2.4) is primarily located in Lincolnshire with the final stages of C and all of D located in Nottinghamshire. We note that significant portions of the route in Nottinghamshire interact with existing DCO scheme proposals for large solar farms (One Earth and Great North Road).

The Archaeology Advice Team at NCC has yet to be consulted by the applicant's archaeological consultant/contractor and strongly encourage early engagement with this office. We also recommend that the Historic England Regional Science Advisor is consulted on geoarchaeological potential and appropriate assessment schemes for the Trent Valley.

We welcome the inclusion of archaeology within the scope of the EIA and the recognition of potential impacts in Chapter 6. We also welcome the recognition of the interrelationships between heritage and other environmental topics as set out in section 6.1.3.

The scoping report proposes that the ES Heritage Chapter will be supported by archaeological assessment comprising a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) and non-intrusive surveys, primarily geophysics. Other non-intrusive survey techniques should also be considered where appropriate.

While the above approach provides an initial baseline of data, the ES will also require intrusive field evaluation for the full extent of proposed impact areas. The results should be used to minimise the impact on the historic environment through informing the project design and an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation secured in the DCO. We would look for a firm commitment to undertake sufficient evaluation to understand the archaeological potential of the scheme and for the results to inform an iterative approach to the design.

In terms of the scope proposed, the DBA should be completed at the earliest opportunity, and the geophysical survey should encompass the full extent of the order limits and not be confined to specific areas as suggested in Section 6.5.96. We would normally expect the DBA and non-intrusive surveys to have been completed by the time the PEIR is produced.

The ES chapter must also be informed by a robust programme of trial trench evaluation to determine the location, depth, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological remains within the Oder Limits and also to provide ground-truthing for so-called 'blank' areas where previous non-intrusive evaluation techniques have not identified archaeology. DBA and non-intrusive survey techniques alone are insufficient to determine the significant of any archaeological remains present.

Trial trench evaluation is essential for effective project management, and to reduce the high degree of risk to the development and delivery that the discovery of previously unknown archaeological remains can have, particularly to work programmes and budgets. Failing to undertake an adequate programme of field evaluation could lead to unnecessary destruction of heritage assets, potential programme delays and excessive cost increases that could otherwise be avoided.

Further, sufficient evaluation must be undertaken across the full impact zone resulting in sufficient baseline evidence for development of an appropriate Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) to deal with all the impacts resulting from works for this development. This should inform design (EN-3 Footnote 101 - **pre-determination archaeological evaluation inform the design of the scheme**) and routing to avoid archaeologically sensitive areas where possible and appropriate reasonable mitigation where impacts on surviving archaeology are unavoidable. An appropriately informed and outline AMS should be presented at submission for Examination.

Table 6.11 - We do not agree with scoping out post construction impacts (decommissioning, maintenance, etc) as preservation in situ will likely form part of any mitigation strategy and post construction activity will potentially impact upon any surviving remains.

It is NCC's position that sufficient information on the archaeological potential must include evidential information on the location, depth, extent and significance of the archaeological deposits which will be impacted by the development. The results will inform a fit for purpose AMS which will identify what measures are to be taken to minimise or adequately record the impact of the proposal on archaeological remains which must be submitted with the DCO application.

This is in accordance with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 which states ***'The EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner…the direct and indirect significant impacts of the proposed development on…material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape.'*** (Regulation 5 (2d)); and
Energy (EN-1): ***'The applicant should ensure that the extent of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of any heritage assets affected can be adequately understood from the application and supporting documents'*** (sections 5.9.9 – 5.9.15).

Ecology

At this stage we cannot provide any specific comments in relation to ecology and BNG as the exact location of the proposed pipeline is not known. However, given the area of which the pipeline is proposed we would expect any application and future route to demonstrate how it has met the mitigation hierarchy and has avoided sensitive sites for biodiversity.

We note that the current scoping route has the following SSSI's within close proximity: Laxton Sykes, Wellow Park, Kirton Wood. As well as potentially impacting many of the County's Local Wildlife Sites within this area.

Full surveys and an ES following industry best practice EcIA guidance should be provided with the application in line with current best practice guidelines:

- CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester., and;
- CIEEM (2019) The Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, . Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Version 1.1, Winchester.

The EcIA should take into consideration the full impacts of the proposals to all relevant species and habitats.

Further ecological surveys are likely to be recommended as part of any initial assessment and these should be undertaken within the optimal timings for each species or habitat and in strict accordance with the most up to date best practice guidelines. Given the scale of the site and surrounding habitats it is likely that a full suite of protected species surveys will be required in order to inform the ecological impact assessment and further mitigation, enhancement and compensation measures.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Breeding birds
- Wintering Birds
- Badger
- Bats
- Otter and water vole
- Reptiles
- Aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates
- Invasive species surveys
- GCN and other amphibians
- Dormouse
- Fish
- Botanical surveys including NVC

Biodiversity Net Gain

The biodiversity net gain condition will apply to any future application and due to the nature of the proposals, we would expect the application to provide an overall net gain of at least 10% but aspire to a greater figure than this in line with county wide aspirations[1].

[1] BNG framework

The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)[2] contains all information in relation to submission of an application subject to the BNG condition and should be consulted for the BNG information requirements. A separate BNG Assessment report should be submitted with any future planning application which should contain all of the information required.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)[3] has recently been published and should form the basis of the strategic significance multiplier applied as part of the biodiversity metric calculations. Any off-site BNG requirements should be in line with the mapped measures outlined within the LNRS and focus on helping to achieve the county wide goal for nature recovery in Nottinghamshire.

Area Specific Enhancements

We also recommend that the applicant considers the following ecological projects within the area in terms of any future mitigation requirements:

- Himalayan Balsam and other invasive species control (Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group)
- Grizzled Skipper Butterfly (Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group)
- Mink control and water vole re-introductions (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust)
- River Trent Gateway (Trent Rivers Trust)
- Merica Mudwoods (Natural England)
- Landford Lowlands (RSPB)
- Besthorpe Nature Reserve (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust)

Conclusion

We trust that the above comments will assist you with preparing your written opinion on the scope of the information to be provided in the ES relating to the proposed development and the Council looks forward to engaging in subsequent stages of consultation in relation to this NSIP.

Should you require any further assistance in relation to these matters then please contact me.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]
Planning and Infrastructure Manager
Nottinghamshire County Council

This document is unsigned as it is electronically forwarded. If you require a signed copy, please contact the sender.

[2] https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/countryside-and-green-spaces/biodiversity-net-gain-spd
[3] Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Nottinghamshire and Nottingham | Nottinghamshire County Council

From: Fire Protection - Admin <Fireprotectionadmin@notts-fire.gov.uk>
Sent: 06 March 2026 14:45
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: EN0610001 - H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

Good Afternoon

We don’t consult on Planning Applications.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

Proposed DCO Application by Cadent Gas Limited for the H2East Pipeline

Royal Mail response to EIA Scoping Consultation

Under section 35 of the Postal Services Act 2011, Royal Mail has been designated by Ofcom as a provider of the Universal Postal Service. Royal Mail is the only such provider in the United Kingdom. The Act provides that Ofcom's primary regulatory duty is to secure the provision of the Universal Postal Service. Ofcom discharges this duty by imposing regulatory conditions on Royal Mail, requiring it to provide the Universal Postal Service.

Royal Mail's performance of the Universal Service Provider obligations is in the public interest and should not be affected detrimentally by any statutorily authorised project. Accordingly, Royal Mail seeks to take all reasonable steps to protect its assets and operational interests from any potentially adverse impacts of proposed development.

Royal Mail and its advisor BNP Paribas Real Estate have reviewed the EIA Scoping Report dated March 2026. There are 12 operational Royal Mail properties within 10km of the proposed scheme's scoping boundary and three within it (Immingham Delivery Office, Brigg Delivery Office and Scunthorpe Delivery Office).

The construction of this infrastructure proposal has been identified as having potential to impact on Royal Mail operational interests, particularly given the impact the proposed development could have on the Strategic Road Network. However, at this point in time Royal Mail is not able to provide a consultation response due to insufficient information being available to adequately assess the level of risk to its operation and the available mitigations for any risk. Consequently, Royal Mail wishes to reserve its position to submit a consultation response/s at a later stage in the consenting process and to give evidence at any future Public Examination, if required.

In the meantime, any further consultation information on this infrastructure proposal and any questions of Royal Mail should be sent to:

[redacted]**@royalmail.com), Senior Planning Lawyer, Royal Mail Group Limited**

[redacted]**@realestate.bnpparibas), Director BNP / Strutt & Parker.**

Please can you confirm receipt of this holding statement by Royal Mail.

End

From: [redacted]@lmdb.co.uk>
Sent: 17 March 2026 14:26
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: Planning TVIDB <planning@tvidb.co.uk>
Subject: Initial Consultation Response to Scoping

> You don't often get email from [redacted]@lmdb.co.uk. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon,

With regard to the request for consultation response regarding the above project I would advise that the proposed development crosses areas under the control of Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

There are numerous watercourses that are likely to be impacted by the development, principally by the proposed route of the Pipeline but also potentially above ground installations and accommodation works.

I feel that it is important to raise some specific issues that will need to be considered further and in detail as a part of the DCO process.

All Board watercourses are subject to Byelaws, which are intended to protect the watercourses and the Board's ability to maintain them. With this in mind I would advise the following.

Byelaw Number 3 states that:

No person shall as a result of development (within the meaning of section 55 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended ("the 1990 Act")) (whether or not such development is authorised by the 1990 Act or any regulation or order whatsoever or none of them) for any purpose by means of any channel, siphon, pipeline or sluice or by any other means whatsoever introduce any water into any watercourse in the District so as to directly or indirectly increase the flow or volume of water in any watercourse in the District (without the previous consent of the Board)."

Consent will only be granted for the increase in flow to a watercourse where the Board is happy that in doing so no demonstrable harm will be caused. It may be the case that appropriate mitigations are required to be put in place to either attenuate flow or to

enhance the existing watercourse to ensure no detriment. If this is not possible alternative outfall locations may need to be considered.

Byelaw Number 10 states that:

No person without the previous consent of the Board shall erect any building or structure, whether temporary or permanent, or plant any tree, shrub, willow or other similar growth within nine metres of the landward toe of the bank where there is an embankment or wall or within nine metres of the top of the batter where there is no embankment or wall, or where the watercourse is enclosed within nine metres of the enclosing structure.

This Byelaw will relate primarily to any above ground installations including buildings (substations), compounds, fencing or planting and their proximity to any Board maintained watercourses.

Byelaw number 17 states that:

No person shall without the previous consent of the Board -

(a) place or affix or cause or permit to be placed or affixed any gas or water main or any pipe or appliance whatsoever or any electrical main or cable or wire in, under or over any watercourse or in, over or through any bank of any watercourse;

(b) cut, pare, damage or remove or cause or permit to be cut, pared, damaged or removed any turf forming part of any bank of any watercourse, or dig for or remove or cause or permit to be dug for or removed any stone, gravel, clay, earth, timber or other material whatsoever forming part of any bank of any watercourse or do or cause or permit to be done anything in, to or upon such bank or any land adjoining such bank of such a nature as to cause damage to or endanger the stability of the bank;

(c) make or cut or cause or permit to be made or cut any excavation or any tunnel or any drain, culvert or other passage for water in, into or out of any watercourse or in or through any bank of any watercourse;

(d) erect or construct or cause or permit to be erected or constructed any fence, post, pylon, wall, wharf, jetty, pier, quay, bridge, loading stage, piling, groyne, revetment

or any other building or structure whatsoever in, over or across any watercourse or in or on any bank thereof;

(e) place or fix or cause or permit to be placed or fixed any engine or mechanical contrivance whatsoever in, under or over any watercourse or in, over or on any bank of any watercourse in such a manner or for such length of time as to cause damage to the watercourse or banks thereof or obstruct the flow of water in, into or out of such watercourse.

Provided that this Byelaw shall not apply to any temporary work executed in an emergency but a person executing any work so excepted shall, as soon as practicable, inform the Board in writing of the execution and of the circumstances in which it was executed and comply with any reasonable directions the Board may give with regard thereto.

The Board will require all watercourses to be crossed by means of an appropriate trenchless method at a depth no less than 2 metres PLUS the safe working distance below the hard bed level of all watercourses (to ODN if EA or IDB maintained).

The purpose of this requirement is to allow the IDB to maintain and have the flexibility to improve watercourses in the future due to climate change (works will include deepening & widening of watercourses).

Any culverting or other works within the bed of any Board maintained watercourse be they temporary or permanent will require consent. It will usually be assumed that these structures will be temporary measures to accommodate haul roads etc.

It is anticipated that the above requirements would be covered by SOCGs, MOU, and via Protective Provisions within the DCO. This matter should be discussed further and in more detail as the proposed route is refined.

Any culverting or other works within the bed of any riparian watercourse within the Board's district or extended area, be they temporary or permanent will also require consent.

It should be noted that the Board's consent is required irrespective of any permission gained under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Board's consent will only be granted where proposals are not detrimental to the flow or stability of the watercourse/ culvert or the Board's machinery access to the watercourse/ culvert which is required for annual maintenance, periodic improvement and emergency works. The Board would not look to be disapplying these powers unless they have been suitably agreed and covered within the protected provisions embedded within the DCO.

I hope that the above is of assistance and I look forward to further ongoing detailed discussions with regard to the proposal.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]
Planning and Development Control Officer

Water Management Consortium

Wellington House, Manby Park, Manby, LOUTH, Lincolnshire, LN11 8UU.
Telephone: 01507 328095

authority to do otherwise. The content of e-mails may have to be disclosed to a requester under data protection legislation, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Whilst the Board does run anti virus software, you are solely responsible for ensuring that any e-mail or attachment you receive is virus free and the Board disclaims any liability for any damage you suffer as a consequence of receiving any virus.

~~~~~

Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board
Wellington House, Manby Park, Manby, Louth, Lincolnshire, LN11 8UU

Telephone: 01507 328095

E-Mail: enquiries@lmdb.co.uk
~~~~~

From: [redacted]@trinityhouse.co.uk>
Sent: 01 April 2026 12:43
To: H2 East Pipeline <H2East@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@trinityhouse.co.uk>
Subject: RE: EN0610001 - H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire - EIA Scoping and Consultation and Regulation 11 Notification

> You don't often get email from [redacted]@trinityhouse.co.uk. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon Wing,

With reference to your attached letter, as it appears there are no expected works to be carried out below the high water mark, Trinity House has no comments to make. However, should this change or not be the case, such works should be discussed with ABP Humber in the first instance.

Kindest regards,

[redacted]

Navigation Services Manager | Navigation Directorate | Trinity House

[redacted]@trinityhouse.co.uk | [redacted]

www.trinityhouse.co.uk

TRINITY HOUSE

TUXFORD TOWN COUNCIL

27 March 2026

The Beeches Community Centre
Birch Court
Tuxford
Nottinghamshire
NG22 0NF

Tel: 01777 870192

Email: clerk@tuxfordtowncouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.tuxfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

To: Cadent Gas Limited / Planning Inspectorate

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Response to EIA Scoping Document (EN0610001-0002) and public consultation letter – Proposed Kirton Pipeline Route

Tuxford Town Council (TTC), in conjunction with the Tuxford Neighbourhood Plan Group (TNPG), welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the above scoping documents.

This is a submitted response to both the Public Consultation letter received by Tuxford Town Council Clerk date 27th February 2026, and the Regulation 10 and 11 Consultation letter, received by email dated 6th March 2026.

Given its importance, Tuxford Town Council (TTC) has engaged with the Tuxford Neighbourhood Plan Group,(TNPG) and provides the consolidated response below.

Individual residents or businesses may respond directly in addition.

Scope of Response

TTC and TNPG have reviewed the material provided, though it must be stated the response time is short for the materials presented. However, we appreciate the level of information supplied.

We are responding only to the leg running between the proposed HYMarnham green H_2 production facility westwards, running just to the south of Tuxford and taking in the Forterra Brick Works at Kirton and then turning south-east to terminate at the sugar refinery at South Markham. This is identified as Section D of the selected Option 1 in the Scoping report.

Tuxford's Support for the Trent Valley Supercluster

Tuxford takes a positive, outward looking view of the larger Trent Valley Supercluster, of which the solar farm, green Hydrogen production facility and, indeed, this pipeline, is one part. As Tuxford is currently finalising a comprehensive update to its Neighbourhood Plan, which has involved a great deal of constructive discussion, surveys and public engagements concerning the priorities of Tuxford

residents, we are therefore confident that the content below represents a clear majority community view.

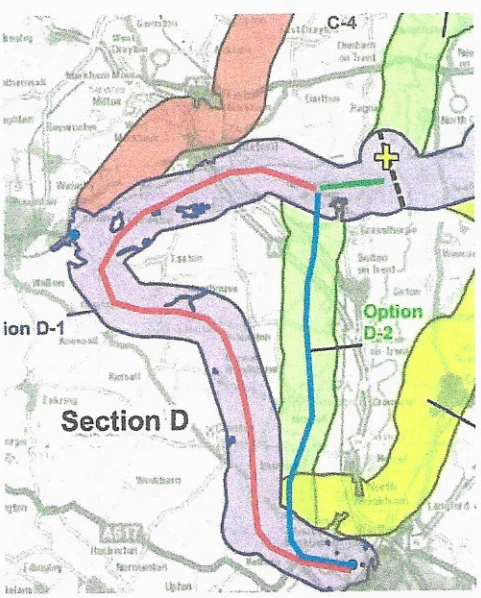
Tuxford has been a key centre for energy, from wood in the Middle Ages, through technical and engineering support for coal mining, to support for the multiple electricity generating stations along this part of the Trent Valley. This has included providing housing for employees as well as industrial sites.

Comments on the Chosen Route

The decision-making behind the selected route has been sufficiently summarised in the documents and in detail in the Design Evolution Report EN 061 001, reference ECHN03-CN-REP-WOR-0000-10068, dated 1st March, 2026. This was not included in the links provided but is nonetheless a key element. We make some comments related to this below.

From this, we note that the route to the west and south of the future HYMarnham green H_2 production facility as planned serves only two customers, mentioned above. The scope of this proposed pipeline is for industrial customers; however, section 3 (Policy Context) and part of the justification for its status as an NSIP relates to the nationwide movement to zero carbon for the country overall. We outline below an idea which will further support this classification with minimal cost to Cadent.

The chosen route heads west just south of Tuxford and includes the edge of its Conservation Area tangentially. This route is required solely to serve the Kirton Brick Works. As a result, the length of the required pipeline, given an eventual location near the centre of the identified Scoping Boundary, between Normanton on Trent (to keep west of the Trent Valley flood zone) to the South Markham sugar refinery is some 29.8km. Option D2, on its southern leg, headed directly south at this point and would be around 13.5km in length. An extract from the Design report is included below for reference. In this, the required section from HYMarnham to west of Normanton on Trent is in green, the direct route is in blue and the chosen route is in red.



Whilst the actual cost is not quoted, Table 6.1: Strategic Options Evaluation identifies Option 3 (the one selected) as being 130km long with an incremental cost of £180M over Option 1 (68km). This results in an additional £180M for 62km of additional length, or an average of £2.9M/km.

This means an incremental cost of £47M or thereabouts, purely to serve the Kirton Brickworks. Forterra applied for an expansion of its clay quarry at Kirton in 2017 (ES/3656), granted by Nottinghamshire County Council in 2019, to add 25 years' production on site. There is therefore production there at least to 2050, assuming some pre-existing reserves at the time of submission. The stated minimum pipeline life of 40 years therefore assumes Kirton will be operative well beyond its identified clay reserves would imply; naturally, future planning applications may well be made to secure this.

We would assume that Forterra has expressed firm interest in converting the plant to H_2, rather than solar, the chosen route for 90% of its facilities, according to its 2024 (latest) Annual report.

Whether this represents good value for shareholders is an issue for Cadent and not TTC.

Issues for Tuxford on the given route

Assuming the route selected, including the £47M detour via Kirton, is the one ultimately chosen, we would note the following from the EIA Scoping document (EN0610001-0002)

1. The list of Heritage Assets identified in Appendix 6A states that heritage assets within Tuxford would be unaffected, as they are outside the Scoping Boundary. However, given the location of the proposed pipeline's scoping boundary directly to the south of Tuxford, and the necessity of significant volumes of HGV traffic to pass through Tuxford to reach this part of the pipe route, this cannot be stated to be true. Of particular significance are the tight turns required to access the narrow roads to reach the pipeline's route, either at Eldon Street junction with Ollerton Road, or at the junction of the Newark Road at Newcastle Street. These are incompatible with long sections of pipeline, which would be the preferred technical option from the point of view of reducing pipeline connections/junctions, always an engineering weak point.
2. There is an expectation of significant additional HGV traffic (Table 10.13, Noise and Vibration, ref NV-05, NV-06 and NV-10) as well as noise from construction and pipe-laying activities (NV-07). As above, this does not seem to take into consideration the impact of this additional traffic beyond noise.
3. Although the proposed Scoping Boundary does not impact the core of Tuxford, it does actually impinge on the Conservation Area, at its southern extent; Tuxford is somewhat unusual in having a Conservation Area that includes an agricultural fringe. The area to the south is also one of only two areas of medieval Ridge and Furrow field pattern remaining in Tuxford.

It is recognised that a detailed Traffic Management Plan is inappropriate at this stage, and we understand that it has not been carried out, but it is a commitment (2.7.65: Traffic and Transport Management). However, we would draw the relevant authorities' attention to the fact that this has not been considered in this scoping report, and it should be.

In this regard it is difficult to see how long, pipeline-loaded HGVs could possibly navigate the centre of Tuxford.

TUXFORD TOWN COUNCIL

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan process, TTC commissioned a desk study and report on how to address the already unacceptable level of HGV traffic through the 18th century town centre (over 700 HGV movements a day, according to the survey). This recommended the combination of route realignment, to connect the A6075 Ollerton Road, just to the east of the Ollerton Road Industrial Estate, with the B1164 (Great North Road) to access the A1 at the Markham Moor Junction (both north and south-bound). This would ensure HGV routes could be maintained and in fact optimised without needing to traverse the narrow centre of Tuxford.

We would urge Cadent to support this, as it would considerably facilitate transport, particularly pipe sections, and would also enable Cadent to use the Ollerton Road Industrial Estate as support and staging.

All the above does not preclude Tuxford being positive to the eventual plan, and it is recognised that the long-term impact of the pipeline, once buried, is limited.

A Proposal for Cadent: Tuxford to be a test site for domestic and small industrial H_2 use.

As we mentioned at the beginning, Tuxford is positive to the Trent Valley Supercluster, positive to a greener future, positive to being the designated Local Service Centre for all of the proposed Green Energy projects.

To this end, we are proposing in our emerging Neighbourhood Plan to do the following:

- Adding to the identified housing allocation so that high quality housing is available in attractive developments for future employees of the Trent Valley Supercluster
- Proposing to expand the Ollerton Road Industrial Estate, provided the relief road identified above, combined with a weight limit through the centre, is realised, so that eventually all HGV-heavy businesses could be concentrated there
- Upgrading the current small industrial estates to the south of Tuxford to become a technology park, combining light engineering, R&E work, office, design and science support for these projects
- Adding to the somewhat limited community facilities for sport and recreation
- Preserving Tuxford's core and rural feel, to ensure it remains an attractive choice for future employees

To this, we would like to add: Make Tuxford a prototype test site for green H_2 domestic and small industrial energy. We recognise that this plan is for large scale industrial use, but adding Tuxford (around 1200 properties and 200 businesses) as a test for future H_2 powered energy would provide Cadent with the following short- and long-term benefits:

- ✓ Tuxford is less than a km from the route of the pipeline, and lies between two HAGI search areas; adding a side-pipe connection point when the main pipe is being installed is therefore an extremely limited cost
- ✓ Tuxford is an "off grid" rural site, whose domestic and industrial users currently depend on tanked oil; this is hardly a great recommendation for a green future, but most importantly, there is no conflict with pre-existing CH_4 pipelines, which are identified as unsuitable

TUXFORD TOWN COUNCIL

- ✓ Tuxford's housing stock includes a mix of 18th-19th century houses, ranging from simple 2-up-2-down terrace cottages to sizeable, detached houses; 1960s council owned housing; recent (21st century) developments; bungalows of various ages, as well as a likely 150-180 future houses in a range of sizes, including small low rise apartment blocks. For a truly carbon-free future, H_2 powered domestic heating and small industrial energy should be part of the mix. If Tuxford were the test site for this, not only would it encourage other smaller places to become proactive and seek future connection, thus extending the viable life of the pipeline infrastructure, it would provide proof that H_2 is a viable heating source for a great variety of homes.
- ✓ If there is interest in this – and it would surely be of interest to the current Net Zero commitment by central government and therefore support the project – Tuxford could discuss creating a CIC to manage the energy billing so that Cadent would in effect have one industrial customer; a second string to its bow to mitigate the risk inherent in £45M or so investment in a single customer.

TTC and TNPG would like to meet Cadent to discuss all of the above, specifically the issue of HGV traffic and perhaps creating a H_2 test site here; we would like to do that in a positive way, as we approach all things in a positive way.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]

[redacted] Chair - Tuxford Town Council

[redacted]

[redacted] Co. Chair - Tuxford Neighbourhood Plan Group

UK Health Security Agency

Environmental Hazards and Emergencies Department
Seaton House, City Link
London Road
Nottingham, NG2 4LA

nsipconsultations@ukhsa.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/ukhsa

Your Ref: EN0610001
Our Ref: 94650

Environmental Services
Infrastructure Decisions and Applications Service
Planning Inspectorate
c/o QUADIENT
69 Buckingham Avenue
Slough SL1 4PN

2nd April 2026

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
H2East Pipeline: Humber to Nottinghamshire – PINS EN0610001
Scoping Consultation Stage

Thank you for including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) in the scoping consultation phase of the above application. ***Please note that we request views from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) and the response provided below is sent on behalf of both UKHSA and OHID.*** The response is impartial and independent.

The health of an individual or a population is the result of a complex interaction of a wide range of different determinants of health, from an individual's genetic make-up to lifestyles and behaviours, and the communities, local economy, built and natural environments to global ecosystem trends. All developments will have some effect on the determinants of health, which in turn will influence the health and wellbeing of the general population, vulnerable groups and individual people. Although assessing impacts on health beyond direct effects from for example emissions to air or road traffic incidents is complex, there is a need to ensure a proportionate assessment focused on an application's significant effects.

Having considered the submitted scoping report we make the following comments:

Environmental Public Health
We recognise the promoter's proposal to include a health section. We believe the summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report provides a focus which ensures that public health is given adequate consideration. The section should summarise key

information, risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, conclusions and residual impacts relating to human health. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should also be highlighted.

In terms of the level of detail to be included in an ES, we recognise that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. UKHSA and OHID's predecessor organisation Public Health England produced an advice document *Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the NSIP Regime*', setting out aspects to be addressed within the Environmental Statement[1]. This advice document and its recommendations are still valid and should be considered when preparing an ES. Please note that where impacts relating to health and/or further assessments are scoped out, promoters should fully explain and justify this within the submitted documentation.

Our position is that pollutants associated with road traffic or combustion, particularly particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen are non-threshold; i.e, an exposed population is likely to be subject to potential harm at any level and that reducing public exposure to non-threshold pollutants (such as particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide) below air quality standards will have potential public health benefits. We support approaches which minimise or mitigate public exposure to non-threshold air pollutants, address inequalities (in exposure) and maximise co-benefits (such as physical exercise). We encourage their consideration during development design, environmental and health impact assessment, and development consent.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of UK Health Security Agency

Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.

[1] https://khub.net/documents/135939561/390856715/Advice+on+the+content+of+environmental+statements+accompanying+an+application+under+the+Nationally+Significant+Infrastructure+Planning+Regime.pdf/a86b5521-46cc-98e4-4cad-f81a6c58f2e2?t=1615998516658

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Application Number: WL/2026/00239

Proposal: H2EAST PIPELINE HUMBER TO NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Location: Consultation on behalf of the Secretary of State for its opinion (a Scoping Opinion) as to the information to be provided in an Environmental Statement - EN0610001

Thank you for your consultation regarding the information to be provided in an Environmental Statement for H2 East Pipeline Humber to Nottinghamshire. As the proposal's route is located within the West Lindsey District Council area, the Local Planning Authority would like to take this opportunity to provide the following response.

In relation to the contents of the Environmental Statement, and based on the information that has been provided, the following matters are considered key:

Environmental Impacts for Consideration

- Health and Safety Impacts
- Noise and Air Quality Impacts During the Construction and Operational Periods
- Above Ground Historic Environment and Below Ground Archaeology
- Impact on the Natural Environment with regard to Ecology and Geodiversity
- Impact on Local Highway Network

Should you require anything further or have any questions on the above, please do not hesitate to contact the West Lindsey Planning Department.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Senior Development Management Officer On behalf of West Lindsey District Council

If you require this document in another format e.g. large print, please contact Customer Services on 01427 676676, by email customer.services@west-lindsey.gov.uk or by asking any of the Customer Services staff