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REPORT TO INFORM A HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT: STAGE 1
SCREENING REPORT

Immingham Energy Storage

Immingham Energy Storage Ltd

12 February 2026





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Executive summary

Locogen Consulting Ltd. was commissioned by Immingham Energy Storage Ltd. to produce a report to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in support of a proposed 1 GW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land near East Halton, North Lincolnshire.

This document comprises Stage 1 of the HRA process and provides information to enable the screening of the Proposed Development with respect to the potential Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on any constituent part of the National Site Network.

Three sites that contribute to the National Site Network (European Sites) were identified as potentially being at risk of adverse impact from the Proposed Development, following initial screening this was reduced to two sites: the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Humber Estuary Ramsar site. The relevant qualifying features of these European Sites were assessed against the potential impacts presented by the Proposed Development.

The assessment has drawn on the results of field study undertaken to date, and a desk top review of purchased third-party data and publicly available sources.

No LSE were considered likely to occur to the integrity of the identified European sites from either the Proposed Development alone or in-combination with other projects or developments.

As no LSE are predicted at Stage 2 of the HRA process, an Appropriate Assessment is not required for the Proposed Development.



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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

Locogen Consulting Ltd. was commissioned by Immingham Energy Storage Ltd. ('the Client') to produce a report to inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in support of a proposed 1 GW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (the 'Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development would be on land near East Halton, North Lincolnshire (central OS grid reference: TA 14910 19590).

North Lincolnshire Council will assume the role of the Competent Authority, assisted by Natural England as the relevant statutory body, in determining the impacts of the Proposed Development on designated conservation sites. For note, this project is not directly connected too, or necessary to the management of any designation in the National Site Network (defined within section 1.2).

This document presents the results of the screening process to determine whether the proposal will have any Likely Significant Effect's (LSE) on any site in the National Site Network. Although this HRA has been prepared to help North Lincolnshire Council discharge its duties under the Habitat Regulations, the Council is the Competent Authority, and it must decide whether to accept this report or otherwise.

This document will assess both the direct and in-combination effects of the Proposed Development on the National Site Network.

1.2 Habitat Regulations Assessment

This document comprises Stage 1 of the HRA process and provides information to enable the screening of the Proposed Development with respect to the potential Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on any constituent part of the National Site Network. The National Site Network consists of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), possible SACs (pSACs), potential SPAs (pSPAs) and Ramsar sites and their relevant qualifying interest features. Collectively these sites are referred to as 'European Sites' within this document. This is in line with guidance issued by the UK Government following the exit of the UK from the European Union¹.

It is proposed that any European Site for which no LSE is predicted from the Proposed Development, either alone or in-combination with any other project or plan, is screened out of further consideration. Where any LSE cannot be ruled out at this stage, the European Site will be assessed further.

The HRA process can have up to three stages:

1. Screening – a check of the potential for any development to have a significant effect on a European Site's conservation objectives.
2. Appropriate Assessment – an assessment of the potential for any LSE resulting from a development to impact on the integrity of a European Site and its conservation objectives. Includes a consideration of methods of impact avoidance or minimisation.
3. Derogation – a consideration as to if any proposal that will have an unavoidable adverse impact on the integrity of a European Site qualifies for exemption. This is subject to three legal tests: a) alternative solutions; b) imperative reasons for overriding public interest; and c) compensatory measures are available and suitable.

Throughout the whole assessment the 'precautionary principle' must be applied. The Screening of LSE is undertaken by a review of the policies and European Sites' conservation objectives whether any effect would compromise the favourable condition of that site in an adverse way. If it can be objectively concluded that there is not likely to be

¹ Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) (2021) Changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017. January 2021. Available: Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Wind Farms: Transmission Assets HRA Screening Report Page 167 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017> . Accessed December 2025.



significant effects, no further assessment is necessary, and permission may be granted. If significant effects cannot be screened out, it is necessary to undertake Stage 2.

2. Information to Inform the Assessment

2.1 Project Details

The site is located approximately 650m east of East Halton, covering an area of ~16.97 ha. The site consists of arable fields, woodland, scattered scrub and rough grassland. The surrounding landscape is predominantly agricultural, however, immediately to the south is Killingholme Power Station and to the east is Immingham Docks.

The site falls within the wider Able Energy Business Park and currently has planning permission for industrial development. The proposed project is seeking planning permission for the installation of a BESS.

The site location is shown in Figure 1 below.

2.2 Current Site Conditions

The site consists primarily of a variety of grassland types within the ‘other neutral grassland’ category of the UK HABS habitat survey methodology², much of this grassland has historically been arable. Areas of arable land still exist within the site and make up much of the surrounding area, some of which is used for the growing of crops, and some is temporary perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) ley. An area of ‘other broadleaved woodland, plantation’ exists within the centre of the site boundary, and an area of ‘other woodland, line of trees, ecologically valuable line of trees, ditch’ exists along the southern boundary of the site. Patches of mixed scrub and some hedgerows are also present within the bounds of the site. In an ornithology context, these habitats are considered to mainly offer some value to resident and migratory passerines.

² UKHab Ltd. (2023) UK Habitat Classification: Version 2.0. Available at: <https://www.ukhab.org>



Figure 1: Site location



2.3 Supporting Information

This HRA draws on information provided within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and ongoing wintering and migratory bird survey works. Additionally, data has been purchased from the Lincolnshire Environmental Record Centre (LERC) pertaining to records of protected or notable species within 5km of the site recorded within the most recent 10-year period (2016 to 2025).

A British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) data report was also purchased for the site. This report details abundance and distribution data relating to both the breeding season and wintering bird interests at the site and surrounds. The data report collates comprehensive (2007 to 2011) and contemporary (2022 to 2026) data relating to grid squares that span the site. Comprehensive data uses a 2km square resolution (a tetrad) while more recent contemporary data uses a 1km square resolution. These records provide a suitable resolution to determine if a species could be located within, or within the vicinity of, the Proposed Development. The tetrad included within the comprehensive data set of the site was subject to structured survey effort of four hours in both the breeding and winter period. Unstructured data, such as casual reporting, was also included for this tetrad in the breeding season. Contemporary data was not available at the 1km or tetrad resolution and therefore cannot provide a suitable indication as to the potential for species presence at the site.

The identification of relevant European Sites was carried out using the Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra) MAGIC Map application³. The relevant European Site features were identified using Natural England's Designated Sites View tool⁴ and the citation for each site.

LERC Data

A total of 12,134 records of bird species were returned within 5km of the site within the most recent 10-year period (2016 to 2025, inclusive). Low spatial resolution of much of this data does not allow the identification of specific observation locations, however due to the large volume of records it can be assumed the area is of high value to many bird species. Records of 89 species were returned, and of these, 84 species are of conservation concern. Species that are 'of conservation concern' are defined as those fitting at least one of the following criteria:

- Birds listed on Annex 1 of the European Council Directive 2009/147/EC (otherwise known as the Birds Directive) transposed into UK law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017⁵;
- Birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)⁶;
- Qualifying species of any designated sites located within 20km of the survey area;
- Birds listed on Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006⁷; and
- Species listed as red or amber on the Birds of Conservation Concern UK list (BoCC)⁸.

The site supports a mosaic of habitats including arable land, other neutral grassland, broadleaved woodland and mixed scrub, habitats suitable for a range of bird species both during the breeding and non-breeding periods. The proximity of the Humber Estuary, a recognised area of international significance for migratory bird species, creates the potential

³ DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). n.d. MAGIC Map (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside). Available at: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.html> (Accessed: December 2025).

⁴ Natural England (n.d.) Designated Sites View – Site Search. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx> (Accessed: December 2025).

⁵ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017). UK Statutory Instruments. 2017 No.1012. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made>. Accessed May 2025.

⁶ UK Government (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, c. 69. London: HMSO (as amended).

⁷ UK Government (2006). Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, c. 16. Section 41. London: HMSO. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/41> (Accessed: December 2025).

⁸ Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. (2021). The status of our bird populations: the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. *British Birds* 114: 723-747.



that the site is used by those species for foraging and roosting. The habitats surrounding the site are considered to be of higher value to migratory and wintering bird species than those within the red line itself.

BTO Data - Comprehensive (2007 to 2011)

A total of 51 species with breeding evidence were identified within the tetrad covering the site. Of these species, two are Schedule 1 listed, 16 are BoCC amber listed, 10 BoCC red listed, and 11 Section 41 listed.

A total of 42 species were recorded within the tetrad covering the site during the winter period. Of these species 11 are BoCC amber listed, nine BoCC red listed, and nine Section 41 listed.

Of those species identified within the BTO data set, shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) were the only qualifying species of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site noted.

2.4 Field Data

Wintering and migratory bird surveys are ongoing at the site. The survey methodology follows a “look-and-see” approach with a surveyor walking public rights of way across the red line boundary plus a 650m buffer. The buffer is based on the maximum disturbance distance of birds associated with the Humber Estuary SPA considered likely to use habitats within or adjacent to the Proposed Development⁶.

A total of 63 species have been recorded during the wintering and migratory bird surveys between September 2025 and January 2026. Of these species, six are qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SPA and/or Ramsar site, two species, black-tailed godwit and golden plover, are qualifying species in their own right while curlew, lapwing, mallard and teal are assemblage features. These species and the peak counts they were recorded in are illustrated within Table 1. A summary list of all recorded species to date are contained within Appendix A of this document. Full detail of records can be provided upon request.

Peak counts of black-tailed godwit and curlew were recorded with birds foraging within the survey area while peak counts of mallard and teal were of birds resting. Peak counts of golden plover and lapwing were recorded commuting over the site. Golden plover were not observed using the habitats within the survey area while three lapwing were recorded foraging.

All six species which are qualifying features of the Humber Estuary SPA and/or Ramsar site were recorded outside of the red line boundary, within the 600m survey buffer; no birds of qualifying interest have been recorded using habitats within the red line boundary of the Proposed Development.



Table 1: Summary of qualifying species of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site recorded during ongoing wintering and migratory bird surveys.

This table contains Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) data from Waterbirds in the UK 2023/24 © copyright and database right 2025. WeBS is a partnership jointly funded by the BTO, RSPB and JNCC, with fieldwork conducted by volunteers.

Species	Latin name	Peak count	Date of peak count	SPA population (and Ramsar if different)	Most recent WeBS count (5-year average) ⁹	Percentage of SPA/Ramsar site citation population	Percentage of most recent WeBS count population (5-year average)
Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	2	16/10/2025	SPA - 915 (passage)	6,836	0.22	0.03
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	47	16/10/2025	Assemblage feature only	2,473	N/A	1.90
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	36	26/09/2025	30,709 (wintering)	21,623	0.12	0.17
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	39	24/11/2025	Assemblage feature only	11,859	N/A	0.33
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	9	21/10/2025	Assemblage feature only	1,459	N/A	0.62
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	3	21/10/2025	Assemblage feature only	9,994	N/A	0.03

2.5 Process for Identifying European Sites and Features

An initial search for European Sites located within 20km of the Proposed Development was undertaken. The 20km search radius is considered proportionate to the scale and type of development proposed and is based upon the maximum core foraging distance of pink-footed goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) during the winter season¹⁰. Although not a qualifying feature of the Humber Estuary SPA or Ramsar site, the pink-footed goose is known to forage within and near the SPA boundary, the large core foraging range offers a precautionary approach for identifying European Sites with potential connectivity to the Proposed Development.

Following this initial search to identify potentially relevant European Sites a screening process was undertaken to determine which European Sites and qualifying features would be progressed for further assessment to determine LSE. The criteria used for screening European Sites and Features with potential connectivity, and therefore at risk of any LSE is detailed within Table 2. The approach has taken into account the wide-ranging nature of many features of European

⁹ Calbrade, N.A., Birtles, G.A., Woodward, I.D., Feather, A., Hiza, B., Caulfield, E., Balmer, D.E., Peck, K., Wotton, S.R., Shaw, J.M., and Frost, T.M. 2025. Waterbirds in the UK 2023/24: The Wetland Bird Survey and Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme. BTO/RSPB/JNCC/NatureScot. Thetford.

¹⁰ Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot). (2016). Assessing connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs): Guidance, Version 3 – June 2016. NatureScot. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2022-12/Assessing%20connectivity%20with%20special%20protection%20areas.pdf> (Accessed: December 2025).



Sites, the potential Zone of Influence (ZOI) any potential impacts may have, and the ecology and distribution of any interest features of those European Sites.

The ZOI applied for the identification of European Sites designated for birds is 650m, the maximum disturbance distance of the assemblage considered to have potential to be using habitats within and adjacent to the site for foraging and/or roosting¹¹. The ZOI applied to the identification of European Sites with qualifying habitat features is 250m based on screening criteria published by the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM)¹².

Table 2: Criteria used to identify any European Sites relevant to the LSE screening process.

Order of consideration	Criteria used for identification of European Sites
1	The Proposed Development overlaps with the boundary of a European Site.
2	European Sites within 25km with qualifying features whose range (e.g. foraging, migratory, wintering, breeding or natural habitat range) overlaps with the Proposed Development.
3	European Sites within 25km with qualifying features whose range (e.g. foraging, migratory, wintering, breeding or natural habitat range) overlaps with the Proposed Development or the ZOI. OR European Sites for which there is the potential for indirect effects to sites designated for Annex 1 habitats within the ZOI.

2.6 Potential Impacts to be Considered

Potential impacts to European Sites and qualifying features may occur during the construction, operation and/or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The impacts that will be taken into account when determining LSE are detailed within Table 3.

¹¹ Goodship, N.M. and Furness, R.W. (MacArthur Green). (2022) Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species. NatureScot Research Report 1283.

¹² IAQM. (2024) Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction. Available at: <https://iaqm.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Construction-Dust-Guidance-Jan-2024.pdf> (Accessed: December 2025).



Table 3: Potential impacts leading to LSE on European Sites and associated qualifying features.

Key: C = Construction phase, O = Operation phase, D = Decommissioning phase.

Impact	Relevant project phase			Justification for inclusion
	C	O	D	
Permanent loss of habitat	✓	×	×	During the construction phase an area of ~14.17ha will be lost through the Proposed Development. Qualifying species of the identified European Sites may be impacted by a loss of roosting and/or foraging areas.
Disturbance and displacement	✓	✓	✓	Disturbance leading to displacement of species may occur through all phases of the Proposed Development. The presence of vehicles and machinery and work-related activities are likely to generate both noise and visual disturbance that may disturb and displace species using the habitats within and adjacent to the site. The presence of vehicles and machinery will be substantially smaller during the operational phase; therefore, any potential disturbance is considered likely to be significantly reduced when compared to the construction and decommissioning phase.
Fragmentation of habitat	✓	✓	✓	The Proposed Development will increase the size of the developed area around Immingham Docks, reducing the width of arable land located between East Halton and Immingham Docks. Changes which lead to existing habitat becoming fragmented may lead to species isolation or reduce the area of available land for foraging or other uses. Species that lack mobility are particularly vulnerable to this potential impact.
Pollution due to accidental spills	✓	✓	✓	Activities related to all phases of the Proposed Development have the potential to lead to accidental spillages leading to pollution events. Any such events may impact both habitats and species associated with European Sites.
Spreading invasive non-native species	✓	×	✓	The movement of vehicles and/or materials related to construction and decommissioning raises the potential for the introduction of invasive non-native species (INNS).
Air pollution	✓	×	✓	The generation of dust from construction and decommissioning related activities. The release of air pollutants due to the presence of vehicles and equipment related to construction and decommissioning activities.



3. Identification of European Sites and Features

Detailed within this section are those European Sites, and their features, that have potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development. Those European Sites initially identified due to their location within 20km of the Proposed Development are detailed within Table 4. The outcome of the screening exercise based on those criteria set out in Table 2 is detailed within Table 5.

No European Sites directly overlap with the Proposed Development therefore no European Sites were identified under criteria 1.

Three European Sites were identified within 20km of the Proposed Development.

A total of two European Sites that satisfy criteria 2 and/or 3 (Humber Estuary SPA and RAMSAR site) were taken on to further consideration following the initial screening exercise.

The Proposed Development lies within the maximum foraging range of lesser black-backed gull¹³ (*Larus fuscus*), a qualifying feature of several SPAs. However, due to the extremely large foraging range (533km), distance of the Proposed Development to the SPAs, and abundance of suitable foraging habitat between those SPAs and the Proposed Development, European Sites for which potential connectivity exists only in regard to this species have been screened out.

¹³ Woodward, I., Thaxter, C.B., Owen, E. and Cook, A.S.C.P. (2019) Desk-based revision of seabird foraging ranges used for HRA screening. BTO Research Report No. 724, British Trust for Ornithology.



Table 4: European Sites with potential connectivity to the Proposed Development.

Site name	Shortest distance to Proposed Development (km)	Area (ha)	Qualifying features	Conservation objectives
Humber Estuary SAC UK0030170	1.53	36,657.15	<p>The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) • Coastal lagoons (priority habitat) • Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> • Embryonic shifting dunes • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') (priority habitat) • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') <p>The site is designated under article 4(4) of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seal (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>) • River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) • Sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.



Site name	Shortest distance to Proposed Development (km)	Area (ha)	Qualifying features	Conservation objectives
Humber Estuary SPA UK9006111	1.28	37,630.24	<p>The site qualifies under article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>) – wintering and breeding • Bittern (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>) – wintering and breeding • Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) - wintering • Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) - wintering • Bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) - wintering • Ruff (<i>Calidris pugnax</i>) - passage • Marsh harrier (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>) - breeding • Little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) – breeding <p>The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex I) in any season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) • Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features, and, • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.



Site name	Shortest distance to Proposed Development (km)	Area (ha)	Qualifying features	Conservation objectives
			<p>The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds (waterbirds as defined by the Ramsar Convention) in any season:</p> <p>Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>), shelduck, wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>), teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>), pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>), scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>), goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>), bittern (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>), oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), avocet, ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), golden plover, grey plover (<i>P. squatarola</i>), lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), knot, sanderling (<i>C. alba</i>), dunlin, ruff, black-tailed godwit, bar-tailed godwit, whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>), curlew (<i>N. arquata</i>), redshank, greenshank (<i>T. nebularia</i>) and turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>).</p>	
Huber Estuary Ramsar site UK11031	1.28	37,987.80	<p>Ramsar criterion 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dune systems and humid dune slacks • Estuarine waters • Intertidal mud and sand flats • Saltmarshes • Coastal brackish/saline lagoons <p>Ramsar criterion 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seals • Natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i> <p>Ramsar criterion 5:</p>	<p>In the absence of specific conservation objectives for the Ramsar site, those conservation objectives attached to the SAC are considered alongside Ramsar criteria 1 and 3, while the SPA conservation objectives are considered alongside criteria 5, 6 and 8.</p>



Site name	Shortest distance to Proposed Development (km)	Area (ha)	Qualifying features	Conservation objectives
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblages of international importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 153,934 waterfowl – non-breeding season (5-year peak mean 1996/97 – 2000/01) <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden plover – passage and wintering • Knot – passage and wintering • Dunlin – passage and wintering • Redshank – passage and wintering • Shelduck – wintering • Black-tailed godwit – wintering <p>Ramsar criterion 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River lamprey • Sea lamprey 	



4. Identification of European Sites Taken Forward to LSE Screening

Table 5 details the outcome of the initial screening exercise undertaken to identify those European Sites and Qualifying features that should be considered for LSE.



Table 5: Outcome of the initial screening exercise.

European Site	Qualifying features screened in for LSE determination	Qualifying features screened out of LSE determination	Rationale for screening decision	Site taken forward to LSE determination
Humber Estuary SAC UK0030170	No features taken forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic salt meadows • Coastal lagoons (priority habitat) • Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> • Embryonic shifting dunes • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') (priority habitat) • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with 	<p>The Proposed Development will not result in any direct loss to the listed habitats as the development lies entirely outside of the SAC boundary.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is screened from the estuary by Immingham Docks and associated industry. There will therefore be no disturbance to the qualifying species of the SAC from the Proposed Development during construction or operation.</p> <p>Although drainage ditches are present within and around the site, these do not permanently contain water. Due to the embedded distance to the SAC, and the low likelihood of accidental pollution events reaching SAC habitats is considered negligible.</p> <p>The water source for the Proposed Development will be fed entirely from freshwater mains. There is no requirement for any seawater abstraction.</p> <p>The site lies beyond the ZOI applied to potential air pollution assessment.</p>	No



European Site	Qualifying features screened in for LSE determination	Qualifying features screened out of LSE determination	Rationale for screening decision	Site taken forward to LSE determination
		<p><i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seal • River lamprey • Sea lamprey 		
<p>Humber Estuary SPA UK9006111</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hen harrier - wintering • Golden plover - wintering • Marsh harrier - breeding • Shelduck - passage • Black-tailed godwit - passage • Redshank - passage • Waterbird assemblage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avocet - wintering and breeding • Bittern - wintering and breeding • Little tern - breeding • Knot - passage • Dunlin - passage 	<p>Bittern¹⁴, little tern¹⁴, knot and dunlin have been screened out due to habitat usage. Habitats present on site and within the immediate surroundings do not offer suitable foraging or roosting opportunities for these species. Knot and dunlin use coastal habitats such as saltmarsh, mudflat and salt flat, little tern forage offshore and breed within shingle or sand, while bittern prefer reedbeds around freshwater marshes.</p> <p>Breeding avocet are screened out based on a habitat preference of shallow, brackish coastal lagoons, a habitat not present within or around the site¹⁴. Wintering avocet are screened out due to lack of suitable habitat within the Site for foraging and/or roosting¹⁵.</p> <p>Habitats within the site and surrounds offer potential hunting opportunities for hen harrier and marsh harrier. Hen harrier are partially migratory within the UK, often moving to lowland areas, regularly close to the coast¹⁶. Due to the transient nature of the</p>	<p>Yes</p>

¹⁴ Humber Management Scheme/Humber Nature Partnership. (no date) Fact sheet: Breeding birds. Humber Nature Partnership. Available at: <https://humburnature.co.uk/assets/breeding-birds-fact-sheet.pdf> (Accessed: December 2025).

¹⁵ Enners, L., Chagas, A.L., Ismar-Rebitz, S.M., Schwemmer, P. and Garthe, S. (2019) Foraging patterns and diet composition of breeding Pied avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) in the German Wadden Sea. *Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science*, 229, p.106399.

¹⁶ Hardey, J., Crick, H., Wernham, C., Riley, H., Etheridge, B. & Thompson, D. (2013) *Raptors: a field guide to survey and monitoring* (3rd Edition). The Stationery Office, Edinburgh.



European Site	Qualifying features screened in for LSE determination	Qualifying features screened out of LSE determination	Rationale for screening decision	Site taken forward to LSE determination
			<p>species during the winter there is potential for the species to make use of the habitats within and around the site. Marsh harrier will hunt up to 7km from a nest site¹⁶ and therefore the Proposed Development lies within the foraging range of the species based on proximity to the SPA.</p> <p>The habitats within and around the site may also offer foraging opportunities to golden plover, shelduck, black-tailed godwit, redshank and species that make up the waterbird assemblage of the SPA.</p> <p>The site lies beyond the ZOI applied to potential air pollution assessment therefore there is no LSE due to the impact of air pollution anticipated.</p>	
Huber Estuary Ramsar site UK11031	<p>Ramsar criterion 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assemblages of international importance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 153,934 waterfowl - non-breeding season (5-year peak mean 1996/97 - 2000/01) <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden plover - passage and wintering 	<p>Ramsar criterion 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dune systems and humid dune slacks • Estuarine waters • Intertidal mud and sand flats • Saltmarshes • Coastal brackish/saline lagoons <p>Ramsar criterion 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey seals 	<p>The Proposed Development will not result in any direct loss to the listed habitats as the development lies entirely outside of the Ramsar site boundary.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is screened from the estuary by Immingham Docks and associated industry. There will therefore be no disturbance to the qualifying species under criterion 3 and 8 of the Ramsar site from the Proposed Development during construction or operation.</p> <p>Although drainage ditches are present within and around the site, these do not permanently contain water. Due to the distance to the Ramsar site, and the low likelihood of accidental pollution events reaching Ramsar site habitats is considered negligible.</p>	Yes



European Site	Qualifying features screened in for LSE determination	Qualifying features screened out of LSE determination	Rationale for screening decision	Site taken forward to LSE determination
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redshank - passage and wintering • Shelduck - wintering • Black-tailed godwit - wintering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natterjack toad <i>Bufo calamita</i> <p>Ramsar criterion 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knot - passage and wintering • Dunlin - passage and wintering <p>Ramsar criterion 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River lamprey • Sea lamprey 	<p>The water source for the Proposed Development will be fed entirely from freshwater mains. There is no requirement for any seawater abstraction.</p> <p>Knot and dunlin have been screened out due to habitat usage. Habitats present on site and within the immediate surroundings do not offer suitable foraging or roosting opportunities for these species. Knot and dunlin use coastal habitats such as saltmarsh, mudflats and salt flats.</p> <p>The habitats within and around the site may also offer foraging opportunities to golden plover, shelduck, black-tailed godwit, redshank and species that make up the waterfowl assemblage of the Ramsar site.</p> <p>The site lies beyond the ZOI applied to potential air pollution assessment therefore there is no LSE due to the impact of air pollution anticipated.</p>	



5. Determination of Likely Significant Effects - Alone

Those European Sites and relevant features taken forward for determination of LSE have been considered against the potential impacts detailed within Table 3 that were shown to be relevant within Table 5. The assessment of potential LSE is detailed within Table 6.



Table 6: Determination of LSE for the Proposed Development alone.

Key: C = Construction phase, O = Operation phase, D = Decommissioning phase.

Qualifying features	Potential impact	Relevant project phase			LSE screening decision	Justification
		C	O	D		
Humber Estuary SPA						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hen harrier - wintering • Golden plover - wintering • Marsh harrier - breeding • Shelduck - passage • Black-tailed godwit - passage • Redshank - passage • Waterbird assemblage 	Permanent loss of habitat	×	×	×	No	Permanent habitat loss will occur during the construction phase however the habitat present is considered to be of relatively low value to the considered species. The habitat that will be lost does not offer suitable nesting habitat for marsh harrier. Additionally, the proximity of the site to the power station and offshore windfarm substation (immediately adjacent to substation and approximately 500m to power station) and the separation between the site and the SPA boundary afforded by Immingham docks reduces the value of the site for foraging waders and wildfowl, and hunting hen harrier and marsh harrier.
	Disturbance and displacement	×	×	×	No	All stages of the Proposed Development have potential to generate noise and visual disturbance that may result in the displacement of ecological receptors. The disturbance during construction and decommissioning will be temporary in nature and not considered significant due to the scale of the development. The distance between the development and the SPA boundary also reduces the potential for significant adverse effects. Additionally, habitats present within the site are considered to be of relatively low value to the considered species. In particular no appropriate breeding habitat is present for marsh harrier, therefore disturbance would only impact hunting behaviour. The habitat present offers very limited hunting opportunity for both harrier species considered. The considered wader and wildfowl species may forage within the arable land contained within the site, and adjacent areas, however areas of land in the vicinity offer higher value foraging and a



Qualifying features	Potential impact	Relevant project phase			LSE screening decision	Justification
		C	O	D		
						<p>lesser degree of existing disturbance. The potential for displacement of birds from this area, adjacent to an area of industry, is not considered to present a risk of significant impact.</p> <p>During operation the produced noise will be similar in nature to baseline, which includes the presence of a power station and offshore windfarm substation within 500m. Additionally, Immingham docks lie between the site and the SPA boundary. Noise will be of an ambient background nature which will allow birds in the area to become accustomed to it.</p>
	Fragmentation of habitat	×	×	×	No	<p>The Proposed Development has the potential to create habitat fragmentation throughout the project lifespan. Changes to an environment can cause habitats to become broken up and species may become isolated as a result. Immobile species, or habitat specialists are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>The scale of the Proposed Development, and its proximity to an area of intense industrialisation removes the risk of species isolation due to the existing disturbance. None of the identified species are highly specialist and are able to adapt to their environment and can move freely between areas of suitable habitat. The probability of any fragmentation caused by the Proposed Development resulting in any observable impact is considered highly unlikely.</p>
	Pollution due to accidental spills	×	×	×	No	<p>Accidental spills leading to pollution events may occur at any stage of the Proposed Development, particularly during the construction and decommissioning phases. Such an event presents the risk of direct or indirect mortality. The risk of any such event will be minimised through the implementation of standard post consent plans (e.g. within a construction and environmental management plan). These plans will</p>



Qualifying features	Potential impact	Relevant project phase			LSE screening decision	Justification
		C	O	D		
						follow best practice guidance. Consequently, the risk of impact to ornithological receptors is extremely unlikely.
	Spreading invasive non-native species	×	×	×	No	<p>The movement of earth, vehicles and people during construction and decommissioning raises the potential that INNS may be spread. Such an event may adversely impact that habitats ornithological receptors rely upon and consequently the population of bird species.</p> <p>The risk of any such event will be minimised through the implementation of standard post consent plans (e.g. within a construction and environmental management plan). These plans will follow best practice guidance. Additionally, no INNS were identified within the site during the habitat survey. Consequently, the risk of impact to ornithological receptors is extremely unlikely.</p>
Humber Estuary Ramsar Site						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterfowl assemblage - non-breeding Golden plover - passage and wintering Redshank - passage and wintering Shelduck - wintering Black-tailed godwit - wintering 	Permanent loss of habitat	×	×	×	No	Permanent habitat loss will occur during the construction phase however the habitat present is considered to be of relatively low value to the considered species. Additionally, the proximity of the site to the power station and offshore windfarm substation (immediately adjacent to substation and approximately 500m to power station) and the separation between the site and the SPA boundary afforded by Immingham docks reduces the value of the site for foraging waders and wildfowl.
	Disturbance and displacement	×	×	×	No	All stages of the Proposed Development have potential to generate noise and visual disturbance that may result in the displacement of ecological receptors. The disturbance during construction and decommissioning will be temporary in nature and not considered significant due to the scale of



Qualifying features	Potential impact	Relevant project phase			LSE screening decision	Justification
		C	O	D		
						<p>the development. The distance between the development and the SPA boundary also reduces the potential for significant adverse effects. Additionally, habitats present within the site are considered to be of relatively low value to the considered species. The considered wader and wildfowl species may forage within the arable land contained within the site, and adjacent areas, however areas of land in the vicinity offer higher value foraging and a lesser degree of existing disturbance. The potential for displacement of birds from this area, adjacent to an area of industry, is not considered to present a risk of significant impact.</p> <p>During operation the produced noise will be similar in nature to baseline, which includes the presence of a power station and offshore windfarm substation within 500m. Additionally, Immingham docks lie between the site and the SPA boundary.</p>
	Fragmentation of habitat	X	X	X	No	<p>The Proposed Development has the potential to create habitat fragmentation throughout the project lifespan. Changes to an environment can cause habitats to become broken up and species may become isolated as a result. Immobile species, or habitat specialists are particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>The scale of the Proposed Development, and its proximity to an area of intense industrialisation removes the risk of species isolation due to the existing disturbance. None of the identified species are highly specialist and are able to adapt to their environment and can move freely between areas of suitable habitat. The probability of any fragmentation caused by the Proposed Development resulting in any observable impact is considered highly unlikely.</p>



Qualifying features	Potential impact	Relevant project phase			LSE screening decision	Justification
		C	O	D		
	Pollution due to accidental spills	X	X	X	No	Accidental spills leading to pollution events may occur at any stage of the Proposed Development, particularly during the construction and decommissioning phases. Such an event presents the risk of direct or indirect mortality. The risk of any such event will be minimised through the implementation of standard post consent plans (e.g. within a construction and environmental management plan). These plans will follow best practice guidance. Consequently, the risk of impact to ornithological receptors is extremely unlikely.
	Spreading invasive non-native species	X	X	X	No	<p>The movement of earth, vehicles and people during construction and decommissioning raises the potential that INNS may be spread. Such an event may adversely impact that habitats ornithological receptors rely upon and consequently the population of bird species.</p> <p>The risk of any such event will be minimised through the implementation of standard post consent plans (e.g. within a construction and environmental management plan). These plans will follow best practice guidance. Additionally, no INNS were identified within the site during the habitat survey. Consequently, the risk of impact to ornithological receptors is extremely unlikely.</p>



6. Determination of Likely Significant Effects – In-combination

A search of the North Lincolnshire Council Planning Portal¹⁷ was undertaken to identify any projects or plans that may present LSE to European Sites when considered in-combination with the Proposed Development. Table 6 presents the projects and plans identified and the potential for in-combination LSE to occur. Domestic projects located within existing areas of habitation have been discounted from further consideration.

¹⁷ North Lincolnshire Council. (2025) Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals. Available at: <https://apps.northlincs.gov.uk/> (Accessed December 2025).



Table 7: In-combination assessment.

Plan / project	Cumulative assessment	Potential for in-combination effects to occur
<p>PA/2025/720 Variation to planning condition attached a port related development and associated mitigation and habitat enhancement. This variation pertains to original submission PA/2015/1264, for which planning permission has been granted.</p>	<p>No LSE were identified between this plan and any other in relation to the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. No LSE were identified in relation to the original planning submission.</p>	<p>This project is located approximately 1.2km north of the Proposed Development. The original submission relates to a wider area of land that partly encompasses the site of the Proposed Development. No LSE are predicted for either development. The construction phases of both projects may overlap however due to the distance between projects, and level of baseline disturbance present adjacent to the Proposed Development already, in-combination LSE are not predicted.</p>
<p>PA/SCO/2025/7 EIA scoping request for a proposed carbon capture plant, spur pipeline and associated development.</p>	<p>No cumulative assessment has been undertaken as this is currently a scoping opinion only.</p>	<p>Closest point approximately 610m east. This project is primarily located within the Immingham docks industrialised area, screened from the Proposed Development by the existing offshore windfarm substation and Killingholme power station. No in-combination LSE is predicted at this stage as the project is just at scoping opinion stage.</p>
<p>PA/SCO/202/12 EIA scoping request for the Humber Hub Blue Project.</p>	<p>No cumulative assessment has been undertaken as this is currently a scoping opinion only.</p>	<p>No new information has been presented in relation to this project since January 2023. Therefore, it is considered that no in-combination LSE will be presented.</p>
<p>PA/2025/1146 Planning permission for the construction and operation of a low carbon (green) hydrogen production facility with an installed electrolyser capacity of 120 MW, including electrolyser units and power supplies, a water treatment plant, cooling equipment, hydrogen purification equipment, a hydrogen storage facility, a control building/stores and maintenance and laydown areas.</p>	<p>No Stage one HRA LSE screening has yet taken place.</p>	<p>The project is located approximate 640m southeast of the Proposed Development and is screened by the existing offshore windfarm substation and Killingholme power station. No cumulative or in-combination effects have been identified within the presented Environmental Statement for this project. Therefore, no in-combination LSE are predicted.</p>
<p>PA/2025/1153</p>	<p>LSE identified for disturbance to qualifying</p>	<p>No in-combination LSE were predicted for this development. The project is located approximately 530m to the east of the Proposed Development</p>



Plan / project	Cumulative assessment	Potential for in-combination effects to occur
Planning permission for the proposed new/altered utility connections providing services to/from the consented North Killingholme Power Project, comprising electrical cables; a gas pipeline; potable and non-potable water pipelines; the reuse/repair or replacement of existing cooling water pipelines and extension to connect existing pipelines to the power station; and the reuse/repair of the existing pumping station.	bird interests of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.	and is screened by the existing offshore windfarm substation and Killingholme power station. Therefore, it is considered that no in-combination LSE will be presented.



7. Appropriate Assessment

No LSE to the integrity of European Sites have been identified as potentially occurring due to the Proposed Development. Therefore Stage 2 of the HRA process is not required.

8. Conclusion

Three European Sites were identified as potentially being exposed to adverse impacts from the Proposed Development: the Humber Estuary SAC, Humber Estuary SPA and Humber Estuary Ramsar site. Following an initial screening of these sites, the Humber Estuary SAC was discounted as being at risk of impact. Further screening was undertaken to identify those qualifying species of the Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site that may experience an impact, and therefore any potential risk to the integrity of the European Sites. Following an assessment of the potential impacts, the Proposed Development presents no LSE for the project alone or in-combination with other projects or plans.



APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF RECORDED SPECIES

Table 8: Summary table of all species recorded during field surveys to date.

Species	Latin name	Peak count recorded
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	1
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	130
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	2
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	5
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	30
Cettis Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	1
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	12
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	45
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	2
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	47
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	2
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	2
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	36
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	12
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	2
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	1



Species	Latin name	Peak count recorded
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	1
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	2
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	1
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	37
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	25
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	8
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	20
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	2
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	39
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	7
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	24
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	2
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	1
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	7
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	5
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	9
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	9
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	3
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	6
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	350
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	8
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	2
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2



Species	Latin name	Peak count recorded
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	4
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	6
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	14
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	3
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1,500
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	19
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	2
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	3
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	1
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	60
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	2
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	5

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