

Note / Memo

**HaskoningDHV UK Ltd.
Industry & Buildings**

To: Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
From: Claire Gilchrist
Date: 30 August 2017
Copy: Emma Jose (YWS), Gregor McNiven (RHDHV)
Our reference: I&BPB5063N001F0.1
Classification: Project related

Subject: Supporting Information to MLA/2017/00249

1. Have the effects of the project on European sites been considered? Please give details

Ornithological Interest

The proposed temporary pipeline protection works are located within the boundary of the Great Wash proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA) though they are located over 1km from any significant overwintering bird roosts. The works would be undertaken in Autumn 2017 (i.e. within the overwintering bird period) and be in place for up to 5 years, after which they will be fully removed. It is estimated that the works would only cover a 0.5km² footprint (an area 100m long x 5m wide) on the foreshore, which represents 0.01% of the total area of the pSPA (4,443km²) (Natural England and JNCC, 2015 – Greater Wash pSPA Departmental Brief, March 2015).

The three key designated features of interest within the Greater Wash pSPA are;

1. Red-throated diver *Gavia stellata*. There are medium population densities in Withernsea compared to rest of pSPA, at 0.29 -0.67 birds per km². Given the higher figure, the amount which could be present within the footprint, would equate to 0.02% of the numbers found within the pSPA. Furthermore, the species would use marine areas for foraging not foreshore and the adjacent cliffs are not deemed to be suitable for roosting.
2. Common scoter *Melanitta nigra*. There are low population densities in Withernsea compared to rest of pSPA, at 0.0 -0.7 birds per km².
3. Little gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*. None counted in Withernsea area

Also designated are Little tern *Sternula albifrons*, of which 42% of GB breeding populations are present within the Greater Wash pSPA. There are little tern colonies in the Humber Estuary SPA. However, these species will only travel a maximum of 6km along the shore in either direction. Withernsea is approximately 13km away and works will be completed prior to the breeding season.

No significant impacts are therefore predicted on the pSPA from the proposed temporary pipeline protection works, and no restrictions on undertaking the proposed works during the overwintering bird period are considered necessary.

Hydrodynamics and Sediment Transport

The Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), SPA and Ramsar sites (which constitute the Humber Estuary European Marine Site (EMS)) are located over 8km from the temporary pipeline protection works location. For the proposed permanent LSO replacement scheme (not the subject of this application), Natural England has provided DAS advice previously which states:

“The supply of sediment to and beyond the Humber Estuary from the Holderness coast is of direct importance to the designated sites including the Humber Estuary SPA, SAC, Ramsar site and underpinning SSSI. Any potential barrier to this in both the construction phase and post construction of the pipeline would need careful consideration.”

For the purposes of the proposed temporary pipeline protection works no significant impact on designated features is predicted due to the small scale, temporary nature of the activities and the distance from the Humber Estuary EMS.

A minor impact on the accumulation and accretion of sediment may occur, such that there is likely to be a build-up of sediment on the up-drift (northern) side of the protected pipe. However, the volumes are likely to be low, as once accumulation reaches the height of the works, a 'ramping' effect will occur, enabling sand bypassing of the structure. It is expected that the works will protrude a maximum of 0.6m above the bed level and will not extend across the entire inter-tidal zone, therefore, the volume of material trapped/retained in this manner will be low. This would be very localised and limited to the areas surrounding Withernsea LSO and adjacent cliffs.

The temporary pipeline protection measures are not therefore considered to have the potential to significantly interfere with coastal processes or sediment supply to designated sites, and no significant impacts are predicted

2. Have the effects of the project on marine conservation zones been considered? Please give details

Yes. The requirements of Sections 125 and 126 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (as amended) ('the 2009 Act') have been fully considered where relevant.

The proposed temporary pipeline protection works are located partly within the Holderness Inshore MCZ, which covers an area of approximately 309km². The protected features include;

- Intertidal sand and muddy sand
- Moderate energy circalittoral rock
- High energy circalittoral rock
- Subtidal coarse sediment
- Subtidal mixed sediments
- Subtidal sand
- Subtidal mud
- Spurn head (subtidal)

Based upon an estimated area of 500m² (including working area), once installed the proposed temporary pipeline protection works would cover an area of approximately 0.16% of the MCZ.

The deposit of the rock filled armour bags would result in a footprint of approximately 2.5m either side of the existing pipeline. Whilst there would be a short-term, localised effect on the habitats and species in the immediate footprint of the temporary pipeline protection works and access area, in the context of the extents of such intertidal habitats within the MCZ the impacts are considered to be negligible.

Sediments within this area of the coast are highly mobile, as noted by Natural England in a previous DAS response (Ref: DAS/11138/204391): “...the Holderness Inshore area is highly turbid with high levels of suspended sediment and this is exacerbated by weather conditions e.g. strong winds”. As noted above, a minor impact on the accumulation and accretion of sediment may occur, but it is expected that this would

be very localised and limited to the areas surrounding Withernsea LSO and adjacent cliffs. Due to the small scale of the works proposed, and their temporary nature it is not considered likely that there will be any discernible change in the interest features of the MCZ.

During initial consultation, Natural England provided the following response;

“Having reviewed the evidence relating to the site we believe that the works will not hinder the conservation objectives of this site; so long as they are undertaken in strict accordance with the information provided by the applicant and subject to the following conditions. We recommend that the following conditions are attached to the marine licence to reinforce compliance and avoid the potential for damage:

Condition

Rock bags should be fully removed as soon as is practicably possible after the replacement LSO pipe becomes fully operational”

Although some details of the application have been amended since this response, it is not expected that the changes would alter this reply and it is YWS’s intention to remove the rock bags prior to the replacement LSO construction works.

No further assessment under S126 of the MCAA 2009 is therefore deemed necessary.