Project name:	**Tytton Lane East, Boston, Lincs**
Natura 2000 sites under consideration	**Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC** **The Wash SPA** **The Wash RAMSAR**
Date:	Author:
July 2020	Helen Scarborough
Description of Project Describe any likely direct, indirect, or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European Site by virtue of:	
Size and scale (road type and probably traffic volume)	The site is located off Tytton Lane East in Boston, Lincolnshire – centred on National Grid Reference TF 327 419. It comprises three grassland fields, two of which are grazed, bordered by tall hedgerows and ditches. To the north are grassland fields and residential development, to the east are grass fields and allotments, to the south and west are residential dwellings and gardens and some grassland.
Land take	The area covered by the three fields is 5.1 hectares. An ecology survey undertaken in 2020 identified the site as dominated by cattle grazed, species poor semi-improved grassland, rough neutral grassland, hedgerows, ditches, and trees.
Distance from European site or key features of the site (from the edge of the project assessment corridor)	The site lies 7km from The Wash SPA, the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC and the Wash RAMSAR site.
Resource requirements (from the European Site or from areas in proximity to the site, where of relevance to consideration of impacts)	There are no resource requirements from the European protected sites.
Emissions (e.g. polluted surface runoff – both soluble	Emissions associated with construction machinery / vehicles are not expected to have a significant effect on

and insoluble pollutants, atmospheric pollution)	local air quality. No increase in emissions during the development phase is anticipated, as traffic volume will not increase significantly as a result of the proposed scheme. Emissions to land, water and air have the potential to affect the European sites; but given the distance from the European sites, it is not considered that they would have a significant effect on the European sites or their qualifying interest features.
Excavation requirements (e.g. impacts of local hydrogeology)	There will be areas of excavation associated with the proposed residential development but all spoil is expected to be retained on site.
Transportation requirements	Access to the site will be via existing road networks.
Duration of construction operation, etc	Up to five years
Other	None.
Description of avoidance and/or mitigation measures Describe any assumed (plainly established and uncontroversial) mitigation measures, including information on:	
Nature of proposals	None proposed
Location	N/A
Evidence for effectiveness	N/A
Mechanism for delivery (legal conditions, restrictions, or other legally enforceable obligations)	N/A
Characteristics of European Site A brief description of the European Site should be produced, including information on:	
Name of European Site and its EU code	**The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC: UK0017075**
Location and distance of the European Site from proposed works	The proposed works are approximately 7km west of the designated site.

European Site size	107,718 ha
Key features of the European site including the primary reasons for selection and any other qualifying interests	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time; - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; - Large shallow inlets and bays; - Reefs; - *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; - Atlantic salt meadow (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*); - Mediterranean and thermos-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*). Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not as a primary reason for site selection: - Coastal lagoons. Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site - Harbour Seal. Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not as a primary reason for site selection: - Otter.
Vulnerability of the European Site – any information available from the standard data forms on potential effect pathways	The site has been identified as vulnerable from: - Physical Loss and damage; - Noise and vibration disturbance; - Toxic contamination (PCBs, heavy metals, hydrocarbons etc) - Non-toxic contamination (nutrient run-off, organic enrichment, turbidity/salinity increases etc) - Biological disturbance (introduction of pathogens, invasive species, etc)
European Site conservation objectives – where these are readily available	With regard to the SAC and the individual species and / or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified and subject to natural change; *Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the favourable conservation*

	status of its qualifying features, by maintaining or restoring; • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats; • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species; • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely; • The populations of qualifying species; and • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.
Name of European Site and its EU code	**The Wash SPA: UK9008021**
Location and distance of the European Site from proposed works	The proposed works are approximately 7km west of the designated site.
European Site size	62,211.66 ha
Key features of the European site including the primary reasons for selection and any other qualifying interests	The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive: During the breeding season the area regularly supports: - 1.2% of the British breeding population of common tern *Sterna hirundo;* - 1.4% of the British breeding population of little tern *Sterna albifrons*; - 9.4% of the British breeding population of marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus.* Over winter the area regularly supports: - 8.7% of the British wintering population of avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta;* - 21.2% of the British wintering population of bar-tailed godwit *Limosa laponica*; - 4.4% of the British wintering population of golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*;

	- 1.2% of the British wintering population of whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus.* The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species: On passage the area regularly supports: - 2.4% of the Europe/North Africa wintering population of ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*; - 1.9% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western and Southern Africa population of sanderling *Calidris alba*. Over winter the area regularly supports - 1.2% of the wintering Iceland-breeding population of blacktailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*; - 1.1% of the wintering Europe-breeding population of curlew *Numenius arquata*; - 7.4% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population of dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*; - 2.5% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population of Dunlin *Calidris alpina;* - 6.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic wintering population of Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*; - 53.4% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population of Knot *Calidris canutus;* - 2.9% of the wintering Europe& Northern/Western Africa population of Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*; - 14.8% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population of Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*; - 1.5% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population of Pintail *Anas acuta*; - 2.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population of Redshank *Tringa totanus;* - 5.3% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population of Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*; - 1.0% of the wintering Western Palearctic- wintering population of Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*;

	An Internationally important assemblage of birds: Over winter, the area regularly supports 400,273 individual waterfowl including: Black-tailed godwit *Limosa islandica*, avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*, pinkfooted goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, pintail *Anas acuta*, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus,* dunlin *Calidris alpina*, sanderling *Calidris alba*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons albifrons,* wigeon *Anas penelope*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, knot *Calidris canutus*, whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.
Vulnerability of the European Site – any information available from the standard data forms on potential effect pathways	The site is subject to a wide range of pressures such as inappropriate water levels, public access/disturbance, siltation, fisheries practice, invasive species, inappropriate coastal management, predation of species, coastal squeeze, changes in land management, air pollution and changes in species distribution. However, overall, the site is relatively robust and many of those pressures have only slight to local effects and are being addressed through Management Plans involving many different conservation and industry bodies.
European Site conservation objectives – where these are readily available	With regard to the SPA and the individual species and / or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified and subject to natural change; *Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;*

	• The extent and distribution of the habitats of 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
Name of European Site and its EU code	**The Wash RAMSAR: UK11072**
Location and distance of the European Site from proposed works	The proposed works are approximately 7km west of the designated site.
European Site size	62,211.66 ha
Key features of the European site including the primary reasons for selection and any other qualifying interests	The Wash is located on the east coast of England between the coastal towns of Hunstanton in north Norfolk and Skegness in Lincolnshire. The Wash is the largest estuarine system in Britain. It is fed by the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse. There are extensive saltmarshes, intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow waters, and deep channels. It is the most important staging post and over-wintering site for migrant wildfowl and wading birds in eastern England. It supports a valuable commercial fishery for shellfish and also an important nursery area for flatfish. It holds one of the North Sea's largest breeding populations of common seal *Phoca vitulina* and some grey seals *Halichoerus grypus*. The sublittoral area supports a number of different marine communities including colonies of the reef-building polychaete worm *Sabellaria spinulosa*. Ramsar Criteria Applied to the Designation of the Site: Ramsar Criterion 1: The Wash is a large shallow bay comprising very extensive saltmarshes, major intertidal banks of sand

	and mud, shallow water, and deep channels. Ramsar Criterion 3: Qualifies because of the inter-relationship between its various components including saltmarshes, intertidal sand and mud flats and the estuarine waters. The saltmarshes and the plankton in the estuarine water provide a primary source of organic material which, together with other organic matter, forms the basis for the high productivity of the estuary. Ramsar Criterion 5: Bird assemblages of international importance occur with peak counts in winter of 292541 waterfowl. Ramsar Criterion 6- species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: - 1.5% of the Europe and north-west Africa-wintering population of Eurasian oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*; - 5.5% of the east Atlantic/west Africa-wintering population of grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*; - 15.3% of the west and southern Africa wintering population of red knot *Calidris canutus islandica*; - 2.8% of the eastern Atlantic population of sanderling *Calidris alba*; - 2.2% of the European breeding population of Eurasian curlew *Numenius arquata arquata*; - 2.5% of the population of common redshank *Tringa tetanus tetanus*; - 1.7% of the north-east Canada, Greenland/western Europe and north-west Africa of ruddy turnstone *Arenaria interpres interpres*. Species with peak counts in winter: - 12.1% of the Greenland, Iceland/UK population of pinkfooted goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*; - 9.7% of the population of dark-bellied brent goose *Branta*

	bernicula bernicula; - 3.2% of the north-west Europe population of common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*; - 1.5% of the north-west Europe population of northern pintail *Anas acuta*; - 2.7% of the western Europe/western Siberia population of dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*; -13.7% of the western Palearctic population of bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica lapponica*. Species/populations identified after designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: - 2% of the Europe/north-west Africa population of ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*; - 1.9% of the Iceland/western Europe population of blacktailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*. Species with peak counts in winter: - 2.3% of the Iceland and Faroes/east Atlantic population of golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*; - 1.3% of the European breeding population of northern lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.
Vulnerability of the European Site – any information available from the standard data forms on potential effect pathways	The site is subject to a wide range of pressures such as inappropriate water levels, public access/disturbance, siltation, fisheries practice, invasive species, inappropriate coastal management, predation of species, coastal squeeze, changes in land management, air pollution and changes in species distribution. However, overall, the site is relatively robust and many of those pressures have only slight to local effects and are being addressed through Management Plans involving many different conservation and industry bodies.
European Site conservation objectives – where these are readily available	Information not readily available so the following is based on conservation objectives for The Wash SPA: With regard to the Ramsar and the individual species and / or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified and subject to natural change;

	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate by maintaining or restoring; • 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.
Assessment criteria Describe the induvial elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European Site	
The footprint of the proposed development works will not modify or impact any features that have resulted in the designation of the European sites discussed above.	
Initial Assessment The key characteristics of the site and the details of the European Site should be considered in identifying potential impacts. Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:	
Reduction in habitat area	There is expected to be no loss of existing habitat in any European designated sites as a result of the proposed development.
Disturbance to key species	It is not expected that the works will cause any impact upon the key species associated with any of the European designated sites. None of the species associated with the designation of the sites are using the site. There is limited potential for species of importance/significance to use the site in summer or winter.
Habitat or species	None expected. The development footprint is localised.

fragmentation	
Reduction in species density	The species for which the sites are designated are unlikely to be found in the habitats found within the works area.
Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality, etc)	The habitats present within the works area are not those identified as contributing selection features within the designation of the SACs. There is not expected to be a change in the status of the habitats.
Climate change	None.
Describe any likely impacts on the European Site as a whole in terms of:	
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site	None.
Interference with the key relationships that define the function of the site	None.
Indicate the significance as a results of the identification of impacts set out above in terms of:	
Reduction in habitat area	None expected
Disturbance to key species	None expected
Habitat or species fragmentation	None expected
Loss – population size	None expected
Fragmentation	None expected
Disruption	None expected
Disturbance	None expected
Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality, hydrological regime etc)	None expected
Describe from the above those elements of the project, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.	

None	
Outcome of screening stage	Not Likely to be Significant Effects
Are the appropriate statutory environmental bodies in agreement with this conclusion	Statutory body (Natural England) not consulted