
Project:	Anglia Level Crossings Reduction Strategy Suffolk Order		
Our reference:	367516	Your reference:	N/A
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Approved by:	Jason Smith	Checked by:	
Subject:	S01 Assessment Note Public Inquiry Note		

This note has been prepared by Mott MacDonald for the Anglia Level Crossings Reduction Strategy Suffolk Order Public Inquiry to inform the Inspector of the content of the HRA and EIA Screening with regards S01 and what Natural England have been consulted on.

1 S01 Assessment

1.1.1 Confirmation has been sought as to whether Natural England were clear, when consulted, that the proposals for S01 would include works within the SSSI, it having been noted that the Suffolk EIA Screening report and HRA use the wording “close to” and “in proximity to” regarding the proposed works and the Stour and Orwell Estuary SSSI/SPA at S01, and similar language was used in Natural England’s response to the EIA screening consultation.

1.1.2 In October 2016, Natural England were provided with the Round 2 Public Consultation documents for Suffolk that showed the location of the proposed footpath being within the designated area, albeit on the boundary. Natural England shared these plans within their respective teams to provide comments on and to allow them to check the proposal plans against their own records. Natural England, subsequently provided a briefing note dated the 15th November 2016 which confirms they are of the opinion there is no impact to any SSSIs within the Suffolk Order. In addition, the plans submitted with the EIA Screening Request show the location of the proposed works being within the boundary of the designated area. The Screening Opinion from Natural England confirms that, following a check of their records against our proposal plans, the proposals are adjacent to or in close proximity to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar Site and the Stour Estuary SSSI.

1.1.3 The Habitats Regulations Assessment: Task 1 Screening Report for S01 Sea Wall, produced in January 2017 and the Ecological Constraints Report fully assessed the scheme, using the same maps provided to Natural England via the EIA Screening Request, which include the identified impacts on the SSSI. The use of the wording “close to” or in proximity to” does not affect the outcome of the assessment or that of the EIA Screening Assessment.

1.1.4 Further consultation with Natural England was carried out on the 23rd April 2018 where they were supplied with map reference MMD-367516-GEN-005 that showed the location of the proposed footpath and footbridge. A reply from Natural England on the 24th April 2018 raised no objections to the proposed works. Therefore, the ecological assessments, including those for the Habitats Regulations Assessment and the

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Ecological Constraints Report, have been undertaken on the basis that some of the proposed works are within the Stour and Orwell Estuary SSSI/SPA. In addition, the EIA Screening Report that Natural England received and provided their opinion on, and the plans shared with Natural England prior to the EIA Screening Request submission show the proposed works being within the designated area and that Natural England were aware of the location of these works when considering the proposals.