

Section 14
Potential Impacts to European Sites of
Nature Conservation Importance



14 POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO EUROPEAN SITES OF NATURE CONSERVATION INTEREST

14.1 INTRODUCTION

This section summarises the information available to assist the Competent Authority in fulfilling the requirements of the *Habitats Regulations*, should an Appropriate Assessment be required. In presenting this information, consideration has been given to any effects that might occur in combination with the other projects in the vicinity, as listed in *Section 13.1*.

Under the *Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994* (the *Habitats Regulations*) as amended, the Competent Authority must undertake an assessment of a proposed development which may have significant implications for the qualifying interest of a Natura 2000 site. The assessment will be in terms of the reasons for the designation of the Natura 2000 sites, and there must be individual assessments for each such site.

The Humber Gateway project is not sited within any Natura 2000 sites. However, it has the potential to impact on qualifying interest features of nearby sites. Consideration has also been given to Ramsar sites in accordance with Government policy (*Planning Policy Statement 9*) which states that Ramsar sites should receive the same protection as designated SPAs and SACs.

Humber Flats, Marshes and Coasts SPA, the Humber Flats Marshes and Coasts Ramsar site, and the Humber Estuary cSAC (collectively referred to as the Humber Estuary European Marine Site), lie approximately 8 km from the wind farm site. Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA and Flamborough Head SAC, collectively referred to as Flamborough Head European Marine Site, lies approximately 55 km to the north of the site. Predicted impacts on the qualifying interest features of these sites have been considered in this section.

Hornsea Mere SPA and Ramsar site has been considered as part of the biological baseline. However, none of its qualifying interest features (gadwall and the standing water which supports it) will be affected by the Humber Gateway project, and therefore no further information has been presented in this section.

14.2 THE HABITATS REGULATIONS PROCESS

14.2.1 APPROACH TO THE ASSESSMENT

European guidance ⁽¹⁾ on Appropriate Assessment includes a staged process to the assessment as follows:

1. Define the proposal.
2. Establish that the proposal is not necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation purposes.
3. Determine whether the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the site (the approach to this is set out in *Section 14.2.2*).
4. If a project is likely to have a significant effect, assess the implications of the proposal for the site's Conservation Objectives so as to answer the question "can it be demonstrated that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site?" This is referred to as the Appropriate Assessment.
5. If the Appropriate Assessment indicates that no adverse effect on the integrity of a European site will occur, the competent authority may proceed to grant consent, subject to considering the issue of conditions and restrictions on the project under Regulation 48(6).

14.2.2 PROCESS OF DETERMINING LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

To determine if the project is likely to have any significant effects on the designated sites, the following issues are considered:

- could the proposals affect the qualifying interest, and are they sensitive to the effect;
- what is the probability of the effect happening;
- what are the likely consequences for the site's Conservation Objectives if the effect occurred; and
- what are the magnitude, duration and reversibility of the effect.

⁽¹⁾ European Commission Environment Division 2001; Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites.

The aim of the *Habitats Regulations* process is to demonstrate that the proposals will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Site integrity is not legally defined, but an accepted definition is as follows:

"the coherence of its structure and function across its whole area that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and / or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified" ⁽²⁾.

The decision on whether the site integrity could be adversely affected by the proposals should focus on and be limited to the site's Conservation Objectives.

The following information is included in this section:

- description of the European Marine Sites of the Humber Estuary and Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs, and the qualifying interest features for which the sites were designated;
- details on the Humber Gateway project, highlighting possible effects on the qualifying interest features of the Natura 2000 sites;
- identification and evaluation of impacts on the ecology and nature conservation value of the site; and
- the potential for in-combination effects when considered along with other existing and proposed schemes.

⁽²⁾ European Communities, 2000 Managing Natura 2000 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the *Habitats Directive 92/43/CEE*. EC.

14.3 POTENTIAL EFFECTS

Information on the ecological baseline characteristics of the Humber Estuary European Marine Site is provided in *Section 8 (Biological Baseline)*. Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA lies 55 km to the north of the site. However, birds from Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA may forage within, or move through, the Humber Gateway site, and so have been included in this assessment. Details of the baseline characteristics of Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA are given in *Section 8.6*.

Natural England has set Conservation Objectives for all the Natura 2000 sites in England. Conservation Objectives are set to ensure that the obligations of the *Habitats Directive* are met, particularly to ensure that there should be no deterioration of, or significant disturbance to, the qualifying features from their condition at the time the Natura status of the site was formally identified. The Conservation Objectives are also essential in determining whether a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect ⁽¹⁾.

The Conservation Objective for each of the qualifying interest features of the sites considered in this section is to maintain that feature in favourable condition. Each feature has a number of conditions which must be met to achieve this. These conditions are also set out in *Table 14.1*.

It should be noted that the sites are considered to be in a favourable conservation status at present.

A review of the Humber Gateway project indicates that the qualifying interest of the Natura 2000 sites might be affected, including through:

- effects on waterbirds including permanent or temporary loss of feeding grounds, disturbance, displacement and the risk of collisions;
- effects on estuarine and coastal habitats including permanent or temporary loss;
- disturbance to grey seals at Donna Nook; and
- disruption to migrating lamprey.

⁽¹⁾ Article 6.2 of the *Habitats Directive*.

14.4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION FOR THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

This section describes the predicted impacts on the qualifying interest features of the Humber Estuary and Flamborough Head European Marine Sites from the project, and is intended to inform the competent authority should they decide to carry out an Appropriate Assessment. The information is provided in *Table 14.1*.

The information presented indicates that the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites will not be affected by the Humber Gateway project either alone or in combination with other projects.

Table 14.1 Impacts on European Marine Sites Favourable Condition Targets

Qualifying Interest Feature	Favourable Condition Target ⁽¹⁾	Likely Effect
Humber Flats Marshes and Coast SPA (Humber Estuary European Marine Site)		
Annex 1 Species	<p>The overall Conservation Objective for Annex 1 species is:</p> <p>Subject to natural change, maintain ⁽²⁾ in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring Annex I species, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intertidal mudflats and sandflats; • saltmarsh communities; • tidal reedbeds; • coastal lagoons; and • unvegetated sand and shingle. <p>The favourable condition targets for the qualifying interests are set out below.</p>	<p>No significant impacts are expected in the intertidal zone from the cable landfall installation due to the localised nature and short duration of these activities. These habitats also have a fast recovery rate and the species present in this habitat have a high degree of resilience. The route will not affect any important foraging areas used by birds (<i>Section 8.7</i>). The project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats. Further information is provided in <i>Section 11.2</i>.</p>
Marsh harrier	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Whilst marsh harriers were recorded during the Phase 1 survey and are known to occur in the surrounds of the onshore components of Humber Gateway, none were recorded within the survey area during the 2006 surveys and this species will not be affected by the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). Hence the favourable condition of this species will not be affected.
Avocet	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No avocets were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.
Little tern	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No little terns were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.
Bittern	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No bitterns were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.
Hen harrier	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Only one record of hen harrier was made during the wintering onshore surveys, and this species will not be affected by the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.

⁽¹⁾ Favourable Condition Targets for The Humber Estuary European Marine Site have been taken from Natural England's Interim Advice given under Regulation 33(2) of the *Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994* (NE 2003).

⁽²⁾ "Maintain" implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

Qualifying Interest Feature	Favourable Condition Target ⁽¹⁾	Likely Effect
Golden plover	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	A single golden plover was recorded in flight during the boat surveys (<i>Section 8.7.4</i>). Large flocks were recorded in the habitats surrounding the onshore cable route. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Bar-tailed godwit	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No bar-tailed godwits were recorded during the offshore surveys. Large flocks were recorded in the habitats surrounding the onshore cable route. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Migratory Species	<p>The overall Conservation Objective for migratory species is:</p> <p>Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important populations of the regularly occurring migratory bird species, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intertidal mudflats and sandflats; • saltmarsh communities; • tidal reedbeds; and • coastal lagoons. <p>The favourable condition targets for the qualifying interests are set out below.</p>	No significant impacts are expected in the intertidal zone from the cable landfall installation due to the localised nature and short duration of these activities. These habitats also have a fast recovery rate and the species present in this habitat have a high degree of resilience. The route will not affect any important foraging areas used by birds (<i>Section 8.7</i>). The project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats. Further information is provided in <i>Section 11.2</i> .
Ringed plover	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No ringed plover were recorded from the offshore surveys. Small flocks were recorded in the habitats surrounding the onshore cable route. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.
Sanderling	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No sanderlings were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.
Redshank	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Two redshanks were recorded in flight through the offshore control survey area during the boat surveys. Small flocks were recorded in the habitats surrounding the onshore cable route. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Shelduck	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	A flock of four shelduck was recorded in flight during the boat based survey in January 2004, with the birds flying towards the mouth of the Humber Estuary. 12 pairs were also recorded in habitats surrounding the onshore cable route. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Grey plover	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No grey plover were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.

Qualifying Interest Feature	Favourable Condition Target ⁽¹⁾	Likely Effect
Lapwing	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No lapwings were recorded from the offshore survey area. Large flocks were recorded in the habitats surrounding the onshore cable route. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.
Knot	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No knots were recorded from the offshore survey area. Small flocks were recorded in the habitats surrounding the onshore cable route. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.
Dunlin	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No dunlins were recorded from the offshore survey area. Large flocks were recorded in the habitats surrounding the onshore cable route. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition of this species.
Assemblage Waterfowl	<p>The overall Conservation Objective for the assemblage of waterfowl is:</p> <p>Subject to natural change, maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the internationally important assemblage of waterfowl, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intertidal mudflats and sandflats; • saltmarsh communities; • tidal reedbeds; and • coastal lagoons. <p>The favourable condition targets for the qualifying interests are set out below.</p>	No significant impacts are expected in the intertidal zone from the cable landfall installation due to the localised nature and short duration of these activities. These habitats also have a fast recovery rate and the species present in this habitat have a high degree of resilience. The project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats. Further information is provided in <i>Section 11.2</i> .
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No dark-bellied Brent geese were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Wigeon	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	A flock of nine birds was flushed from the sea surface during the boat based survey in November 2005. There will be no significant reduction in numbers or displacement due to the project. The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Mallard	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	There were only two sightings of mallard during the offshore surveys in November 2005, with two birds in the wind farm survey area and six birds in the control area (<i>Section 8.7.4</i>). Small numbers were recorded breeding with large flocks wintering during the onshore surveys. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Pochard	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No pochards were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Scaup	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No scaups were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.

Qualifying Interest Feature	Favourable Condition Target ⁽¹⁾	Likely Effect
Goldeneye	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No goldeneyes were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Oystercatcher	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No oystercatchers were recorded from the offshore survey area. Small numbers of birds were recorded breeding within the survey area for the onshore cable route and small flocks of wintering birds. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Black-tailed godwit	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No black-tailed godwits were recorded from the survey area. The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.
Curlew	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	No curlews were recorded from the offshore survey area. Large flocks were recorded in the habitats surrounding the onshore cable route. However, no significant reduction in numbers or displacement effects are predicted as a result of the project (see the Environmental Statement that deals with the onshore components of the Humber Gateway project). The project will not affect the favourable condition status of this species.

Humber Estuary cSAC (Humber Estuary European Marine Site)

Estuary feature	Subject to natural change, maintain the estuary in favourable condition in particular the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • saltmarsh communities; • intertidal mudflats and sandflat communities; and • subtidal sediment communities. 	No significant impacts are predicted in the intertidal zone from the cable landfall installation due to the localised nature and short duration of these activities. These habitats also have a fast recovery rate and the species present in this habitat have a high degree of resilience. The project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats. Further information is provided in <i>Section 11.2</i> .
Coastal lagoons	Subject to natural change, maintain the coastal lagoons in favourable condition.	As above, the favourable condition of this habitat will not be affected by the project.
Atlantic salt meadows	Subject to natural change, maintain the Atlantic salt meadows in favourable condition in particular the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low to mid marsh communities; • mid to upper marsh communities; and • transitional communities. 	As above, the favourable condition of this habitat will not be affected by the project.
<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Subject to natural change, maintain <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand in favourable condition, in particular the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual <i>Salicornia</i> (samphire) saltmarsh community; and • <i>Sueda maritima</i> (sea-blite) community. 	As above, the favourable condition of this habitat will not be affected by the project.

Qualifying Interest Feature	Favourable Condition Target ⁽¹⁾	Likely Effect
Mud flats and sand flats not covered by seawater at low tide	Subject to natural change, maintain the mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in favourable condition, in particular the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intertidal gravel and sand communities; • intertidal muddy sand communities; • intertidal mud communities; and • eelgrass bed communities. 	As above, the favourable condition of this habitat will not be affected by the project.
Sand banks which are slightly covered by water all the time	Subject to natural change, maintain the sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all of the time in favourable condition, in particular the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subtidal gravel and sands; and • subtidal muddy sands. 	As above, the favourable condition of this habitat will not be affected by the project.
River lamprey	Subject to natural change, maintain the habitats of river lamprey in favourable condition.	River lamprey is rarely found in the study area and any changes as a result of the project are not predicted to affect the habitats of this species (<i>Section 11.4</i>).
Sea lamprey	Subject to natural change, maintain the habitats of sea lamprey in favourable condition.	Sea lamprey is rarely found in the study area and any changes as a result of the project are not predicted to affect the habitats of this species (<i>Section 11.4</i>).

Ramsar Site (Humber Estuary European Marine Site)

Wetland hosting an assemblage of threatened coastal and wetland invertebrates	Subject to natural change, maintain the wetland in favourable condition, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • saltmarsh communities; and • coastal lagoons. 	No significant impacts are expected in the intertidal zone from the cable landfall installation due to the localised nature and short duration of these activities. These habitats also have a fast recovery rate and the species present in this habitat have a high degree of resilience. The project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats. Further information is provided in <i>Section 11.2</i> .
Wetland supporting a breeding colony of grey seals	Subject to natural change, maintain the wetland in favourable condition, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intertidal mud and sandflats. 	The project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats (<i>Section 11.2</i>). However, some impacts are predicted to grey seal outside the European Marine Site (<i>Section 11.5</i>).
Wetland regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterfowl	Subject to natural change, maintain the wetland in favourable condition, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intertidal mudflats and sandflats; • saltmarsh communities; • tidal reedbeds; and • coastal lagoons. 	The project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats. Further information is provided in <i>Section 11.2</i> .

Qualifying Interest Feature	Favourable Condition Target ⁽¹⁾	Likely Effect
Wetland regularly supporting 1% or more of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterfowl	Subject to natural change, maintain the wetland in favourable condition, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intertidal mudflats and sandflats; • saltmarsh communities; • tidal reedbeds; and • coastal lagoons. 	The project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats. Further information is provided in <i>Section 11.2</i> .
Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs SPA (Flamborough Head European Marine Site)		
Migratory Species		
Black legged kittiwake	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	This was the main gull species recorded during the surveys. Whilst this species was regularly recorded within the wind farm site, it was also regularly recorded in greater numbers across the remainder of the survey area. The wind farm site and immediate surrounds did not support any particular concentrations. There will be no significant reduction in numbers, productivity or displacement as a result of habitat loss, disturbance, displacement or collision risk from the project alone, or in combination with other developments (<i>Sections 8.7, 11.6 and 13.3.5 and Appendix D1 Humber Gateway Seabird Survey</i>).
Seabird Assemblage Species		
Puffin	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Peak numbers of puffin were recorded in August 2005, with between 40 and 45 birds recorded in the Humber Gateway survey area and between 25 and 30 birds recorded in the control site survey area. The wind farm site and immediate surrounds did not support any particular concentrations. There will be no significant reduction in numbers, productivity or displacement as a result of habitat loss, disturbance, displacement or collision risk from the project alone, or in combination with other developments (<i>Sections 8.7, 11.6 and 13.3.5 and Appendix D1 Humber Gateway Seabird Survey</i>).
Razorbill	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	Fewer than 20 birds were recorded per survey, except in August 2005 when a total of 122 birds were recorded in the wind farm survey area and 111 in the control area. The wind farm site and immediate surrounds did not support any particular concentrations. There will be no significant reduction in numbers, productivity or displacement as a result of habitat loss, disturbance, displacement or collision risk from the project, or in combination with other developments (<i>Sections 8.7, 11.6 and 13.3.5 and Appendix D1 Humber Gateway Seabird Survey</i>).
Guillemot	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	This was the most common auk species with at least 50 birds recorded in the survey area during the boat-based surveys, and a peak of nearly 160 birds in March 2004. However, the wind farm site and immediate surrounds did not support any particular concentrations. There will be no significant reduction in numbers, productivity or displacement as a result of habitat loss, disturbance, displacement or collision risk from the project alone, or in combination with other developments (<i>Sections 8.7, 11.6 and 13.3.5 and Appendix D1 Humber Gateway Seabird Survey</i>).

Qualifying Interest Feature	Favourable Condition Target ⁽¹⁾	Likely Effect
Herring gull	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	During winter and spring, between two and 12 birds were recorded on most surveys in the wind farm survey area, and between one and seven in the control area. The wind farm site and immediate surrounds did not support any particular concentrations. There will be no significant reduction in numbers, productivity or displacement as a result of habitat loss, disturbance, displacement or collision risk from the project alone, or in combination with other developments (<i>Sections 8.7, 11.6 and 13.3.5 and Appendix D1 Humber Gateway Seabird Survey</i>).
Gannet	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	The findings of the surveys during the main breeding period (May to August) showed birds in flight to be distributed across the survey area. Whilst some birds were recorded within 2 km of the coastline, the majority were over 10 km offshore, and also closer to the colony at Flamborough Head and Bempton. The wind farm site and immediate surrounds did not support any particular concentrations. There will be no significant reduction in numbers, productivity or displacement as a result of habitat loss, disturbance, displacement or collision risk from the project alone, or in combination with other developments (<i>Sections 8.7, 11.6 and 13.3.5 and Appendix D1 Humber Gateway Seabird Survey</i>).
Black legged kittiwake	No significant reduction in bird numbers and productivity or displacement of birds attributable to human disturbance from an established baseline, subject to natural change.	This was the main gull species recorded during the surveys. Whilst this species was regularly recorded within the wind farm site, it was also recorded across the survey area. However, the wind farm site and immediate surrounds did not support any particular concentrations. There will be no significant reduction in numbers, productivity or displacement as a result of habitat loss, disturbance, displacement or collision risk from the project alone, or in combination with other developments (<i>Sections 8.7, 11.6 and 13.3.5 and Appendix D1 Humber Gateway Seabird Survey</i>).
Flamborough Head SAC (Flamborough Head European Marine Site)		
Reefs	The overall Conservation Objective for the reefs is: Subject to natural change, maintain the reefs in favourable condition, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rocky shore communities; kelp forest communities; and subtidal faunal turf communities. 	Flamborough Head is located at about 55km to the north of the Humber Gateway site. The project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats.
Submerged or partly submerged sea caves	The overall Conservation Objective for the sea caves is: Subject to natural change, maintain the submerged or partially submerged sea caves in favourable condition, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> microalgal and lichen communities; and faunal cushion and crust communities. 	As above, the project will not affect the favourable condition of these habitats.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	These habitats are adjacent European coastal features of interest, not part of the European Marine Site and as such do not have specific favourable condition targets.	These habitats will not be affected by the project.

