



# Assessment of Likely Significant Effect



ENTER SITE NAME/DESIGNATION

The purpose of the following assessment is to determine whether the proposed activities are considered under the Habitats Regulations<sup>1</sup> to have a significant effect, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, on one or more European sites.

<sup>1</sup> Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) (Directive 92/43/EEC)

## PART A

1. Type of permission/activity:	
2. National Grid reference:	SD49813251 (349815, 432516) to SD47873000 (347877, 430008)
3. Site reference:	Hoyles Lane
4. Brief description of proposal:	<p>Proposed new sewer c. 4km long from Hoyles Lane, Cottam to Lea Gate Pumping Station. The key construction activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site establishment &amp; compound creation;</li> <li>• Creation of temporary accesses at Lea Road; Sidgreaves Lane (x2), Darkinson Lane &amp; Riversway.</li> <li>• Open cut works to install new sewer pipeline; and</li> <li>• Guided auger boring works underneath the Lancaster Canal, the Preston to Blackpool railway line and Savick Brook.</li> </ul>
5. European site name(s) and status:	Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar and SPA
6. List of interest features (taken from Natural England's Conservation Advice for Marine Protected Areas):	<p><b>Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA</b></p> <p>Breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Common tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i></li> <li>- Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i></li> <li>- Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i></li> </ul> <p>Non-breeding birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i></li> <li>- Bewick's swan <i>Cygnus columbianus</i></li> <li>- Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i></li> <li>- Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i></li> <li>- Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></li> <li>- Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>- Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i></li> <li>- Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i></li> <li>- Pink-footed goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i></li> <li>- Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i></li> <li>- Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i></li> <li>- Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li> <li>- Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i></li> <li>- Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></li> <li>- Teal <i>Anas crecca</i></li> <li>- Whooper swan <i>Cygnus cygnus</i></li> <li>- Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i></li> </ul> <p>Seabird assemblage, breeding: The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at over 20,000 seabirds. At the time of classification, the site supported qualifying numbers of black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>), lesser black-backed gull (<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>) and common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) in the breeding season.</p>

	<p>Waterbird assemblage, non-breeding:  The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting over 20,000 waterbirds in any season. At the time of classification, the site supported 323,861 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1993/4 – 1997/8). These include cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>), Bewick's swan, whooper swan, pink-footed goose, shelduck, wigeon, teal, pintail, scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>), common scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>), oystercatcher, ringed plover, golden plover, grey plover, lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), knot, sanderling, dunlin, black-tailed godwit, bar-tailed godwit, whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>), curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) and redshank in the non-breeding season.</p> <p><b>Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar site</b>  The site qualifies under Ramsar criterion 2 -  This site supports up to 40% of the Great Britain population of natterjack toads <i>Bufo calamita</i>.</p> <p>The site qualifies under Ramsar criterion 5 - assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:  222,038 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>The site qualifies under Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <p>Species regularly supported during the breeding season:  -Lesser black-backed gull</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:  -Ringed plover  -Grey plover  -Red knot  -Sanderling  -Dunlin  -Black-tailed godwit  -Common redshank  -Lesser black-backed gull</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:  -Tundra (Bewick's) swan  -Whooper swan  -Pink-footed goose  -Common shelduck  -Eurasian wigeon  -Eurasian teal  -Northern pintail  -Eurasian oystercatcher  -Bar-tailed godwit</p>
<p><b>7. Is the proposal directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation?</b></p>	<p>No</p>

**8. What potential hazards are likely to affect the interest features? (Refer to relevant sensitivity matrix and only include those to which the interest features are sensitive). Are the interest features potentially exposed to the hazard?**

Sensitive Interest Feature:	Potential hazard:	Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known:
Breeding birds/ seabird assemblage, breeding	Pollution	<p>There is no suitable breeding habitat within 500m for species associated with the European designated sites, however, construction at the southern end of the pipeline route is in close proximity to the Savick Brook which feeds into the R. Ribble c. 1.6km south of Lea Gate Pumping Station. Without implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, there is a risk of pollution to the European designated sites and associated interest features during construction from spillage of fuels/ COSHH materials, any dewatering activities and/ or silt/ sediment run-off.</p> <p>The Lancaster Canal has distant hydrological connectivity to the European designated sites (c. 9.25km via the Savick Brook to the east), however, the Lancaster Canal is raised above the surrounding land and the new pipe will be bored at least 3.5m below the invert beneath the Lancaster Canal. There is therefore no risk of potential pollution via the Lancaster Canal.</p> <p>Once completed, there will be no change to the volume of flow through the pipe and any permanent discharges will be unchanged. No likely significant effects as a result of pollution are, therefore, anticipated during operation.</p>
Non-breeding birds/ assemblage	<p>Temporary loss/ damage of functionally linked habitat</p> <p>Pollution</p>	<p>Temporary loss/ damage of functionally linked habitat during construction.</p> <p>Construction at the southern end of the pipeline route is in close proximity to the Savick Brook which feeds into the R. Ribble c. 1.6km south of Lea Gate Pumping Station. Without implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, there is a risk of pollution to the European designated sites and associated interest features during construction from spillage of fuels/ COSHH materials, any dewatering activities and/ or silt/ sediment run-off.</p>

Sensitive Interest Feature:	Potential hazard:	Potential exposure to hazard and mechanism of effect/impact if known:
Natterjack toad	Pollution (cont.)	<p>The Lancaster Canal has distant hydrological connectivity to the European designated sites (c. 9.25km via the Savick Brook to the east), however, the Lancaster Canal is raised above the surrounding land and the new pipe will be bored at least 3.5m below the invert beneath the Lancaster Canal. There is therefore no risk of potential pollution via the Lancaster Canal. Once completed, there will be no change to the volume of flow through the pipe and any permanent discharges will be unchanged. No likely significant effects as a result of pollution are, therefore, anticipated during operation.</p>
	Disturbance (noise/ visual/lighting)	<p>There is potential for disturbance to non-breeding birds due to noise/ visual/ lighting if construction undertaken during the autumn/winter/spring months.</p>
	No potential hazards	<p>There is no suitable habitat for natterjack toads which could be affected by the proposed pipeline. No potential hazards are, therefore, anticipated.</p>

<b>9. Is the potential scale or magnitude of any effect likely to be significant?</b>	
<b>a) Alone?</b> (explain conclusion, e.g. in relation to de minimis criteria)	<p><b>Breeding birds:</b> Given the distance between the southern end of the pipeline and the R. Ribble (1.6km) it is considered low risk that pollution would reach the European designated site and it is therefore considered low risk that there would be a significant effect on breeding birds. Without implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, there remains a small risk of potential pollution to the European designated sites and associated interest features.</p> <p><b>Non-breeding birds:</b> The desk study did not find any records indicating that the area is regularly used by significant numbers of non-breeding birds associated with the European designated sites. Three Natural England commissioned research reports (Bowland Ecology, 2021, Devenish et. al., 2015 and Brides et. al. 2013) all predicted and identified limited evidence of foraging pink footed geese in the vicinity of the proposed development. Wintering bird surveys undertaken to inform the Preston Western Distributor and East West Link Roads in 2014/15, which covered the majority of the area within 500m of the proposed pipeline, concluded that the study area does not support significant numbers of SPA qualifying bird species and therefore cannot be considered to be functionally linked land. Temporary loss/ damage of functionally linked habitat and disturbance due to noise/ visual/ lighting during construction is therefore considered unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>Given the distance between the southern end of the pipeline and the R. Ribble (1.6km) it is considered low risk that pollution would reach the European designated site and it is therefore considered low risk that there would be a significant effect on non-breeding birds. Without implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, there remains a small risk of potential pollution to the European designated sites and associated interest features.</p>
<b>b) In combination</b> with other permissions and/or other plans or projects? (Explain conclusion and which plans/projects have been included, including those associated with other functions).	In combination effects will be considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
<b>c) In combination</b> with permissions and/or plans/projects of other Competent Authorities? (Explain conclusion and which plans/projects have been included. Include list of other Competent Authorities that have been consulted and what their comments were in relation to the decision on likely significant effect.	In combination effects will be considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
<b>10. Conclusion</b> - Is the proposal likely to have a significant effect 'alone and/or in combination' on a European site?	The ALSE has concluded a potentially likely significant effect as a result of potential pollution of the Savick Brook which feeds into the European designated site. This, along with any potential in combination effects, will be considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
<b>12. UU Ecologist:</b>	Date:

<b>13. Natural England comment on assessment:</b>		
<b>14. Name of Natural England Officer:</b>		Date: