

Development Management

Subject: FW: NE / Landscape - Cottam Comments

From: Wilson, Grace [REDACTED] >

Sent: 13 March 2023 13:23

To: Ashworth, Helen <[REDACTED]>

Subject: FW: NE / Landscape - Cottam Comments

Hi Helen,

Can the below be sent over to Natural England in response to their comments regarding Newton Marsh SSSI.

Newton Marsh SSSI has been designated for its bird interest and is located approximately 6.4km south-west of the Scheme. The Scheme falls within the SSSI's Impact Risk Zone.

Wintering Birds

Four noteworthy wintering bird species mentioned in citation for the Newton Marsh SSSI were recorded during the wintering bird surveys, these were lapwing, mallard, teal and snipe. Based on the professional judgement of Jacobs ornithologists and following a review of the bird species data for the PWD / EWL scheme which is adjacent to and within the Cottam Parkway survey area, the utilisation of the survey area specifically as a wintering resource by waders, winter thrushes, gulls, wildfowl and passerines are considered to be normal in the context of the habitats available (intensively managed improved pasture). For further species population levels and distributions refer to White et al., (2013) and Musgrove et al., (2013).

Generally, numbers of both resident and wintering species recorded throughout the survey period of October 2019 to March 2020 inclusive were not considered to represent a significant proportion of their UK or county populations (refer to White et al., 2013 for further details on species distributions across Lancashire). In terms of species mentioned in the citation of Newton Marsh SSSI, teal is an exception to this as relatively large numbers of this species were recorded. During the fourth visit in January, 102 teal were recorded on a single pond to the north of Earl's Farm. Teal were one of the few birds recorded on all six visits. The next largest total was the following month in February where 37 birds were recorded. The total UK wintering population is estimated to be 220,00 individual teal as of 2004/5 – 2008/9 (Musgrove et al., 2013). The survey area comprises 0.046% of this UK population and 1.02% of Lancashire's estimated wintering population and is a result of importance at County Level.

However, the teal population was recorded outside of the Scheme boundary and within an area that would be unaffected by any direct or in-direct impacts from the construction and operation of the Scheme. As a result, there is not anticipated to be impacts to the wintering bird populations of Newton Marsh SSSI (and thus Newton Marsh SSSI) as a result of the Scheme.

Breeding Birds

It is considered that of the nine qualifying species for the Newton Marsh SSSI (coot, lapwing, mallard, moorhen, mute swan, oystercatcher, reed bunting, skylark, and snipe) five are probable breeding species within the survey area. These species are coot, lapwing, mallard, moorhen and mute swan and all were seen on at least two of the three surveys and / or numbers were either of levels that would suggest breeding pairs or bird numbers generally increased throughout the survey season. Given the breeding nature and distribution of these birds within the scheme survey area, it is considered unlikely that these birds formed part of the populations for which Newton Marsh SSSI was designated. None of the species were recorded in notably high numbers when compared to the Lancashire breeding populations. As a result, there is not anticipated to be impacts to the breeding bird populations of Newton Marsh SSSI (and thus Newton Marsh SSSI) as a result of the Scheme.

Thanks,

Grace

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