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Bravo 10 pipeline bridge.

**Ecology report
Revision A
Draft**

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1. Introduction

1.1 This document has been prepared by INCA on behalf of Teesworks. This report provides baseline ecology information and recommendations.

1.2 The report has been produced with reference to current guidelines published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) [i] and the British Standard 'BS 42020:2013' [ii], which involve the evaluation of potential ecological constraints based on Extended Phase I (Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC 2010)) survey data and background desk study.

2. Project title

2.1 Bravo 10 pipeline bridge.

3. Project description

3.1 The project involves the removal of a pipe bridge and its replacement with an underground pipe trench.

The site is in the borough of Redcar and Cleveland and is on industrial land near Teesport.

It is at Ordnance Survey grid reference NZ 545-230. It is part of the much larger Teesworks site, for which there is a Redcar and Cleveland supplementary planning document (master plan) [iii].

3.2 The development site is small, covering a section of the existing earth bank which carries several pipes.

4. Scope of the assessment

4.1 This assessment covers all Valued Ecological Receptors (VERs) that are found in the wider Teesside area and which have the potential to be present on the site or else be affected by the development.

4.2 In assessing the impacts of a proposal the geographical extent over which those impacts on VERs might potentially be significant needs to be considered; this is referred to as the Zone of Influence (ZOI). For the purposes of this assessment, the following ZOIs have been used.

internationally designated sites- 10km;

nationally designated sites – 5km;

locally designated sites and Priority habitats – 2km;

protected species and Priority species – considered individually for each species;

widespread species and habitats – site only.

5. Legislative and Planning context

Legislation

5.1 The following legislation is relevant to this chapter:

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 [iv]

Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended) [v];

Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 [vi].

Planning Policy

5.2 The following planning policies are relevant to this assessment:

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) Local Plan (statutory policy) [vii];

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [viii];

South Tees Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2018 (non-statutory policy/ material planning consideration) [iii].

6. Desk study methodology

6.1 The desk study of designated sites is based principally on Defra's MAGIC Map data plus Tees Valley Local Nature Partnership information.

6.2 The desk study of habitats and species is based principally on data collected by INCA, which has carried out ecological surveys across almost all the industrial land in the wider South Tees area over more than a 20-year period, including the majority of the Teesworks area. INCA has been the main organisation collecting ecological data across the Teesworks area, accumulating a significant number of species records relevant to the site and the surrounding area. Therefore, it was considered more appropriate to use INCA data for this report than to consult the Environmental Records Information Centre North East. Additional information on wildlife that is relevant to this assessment and is in the public domain has also been utilised.

6.3 Priority habitats and Priority species (listed under the NERC Act) are a material consideration in the planning system.

7. Desk study results

Internationally designated sites

7.1 There are two internationally designated sites within a 10km radius of the site; the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar site.

Nationally Designated Sites

7.2 There are two nationally designated sites within a 5km radius of the proposed development site; Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Teesmouth National Nature Reserve (NNR).

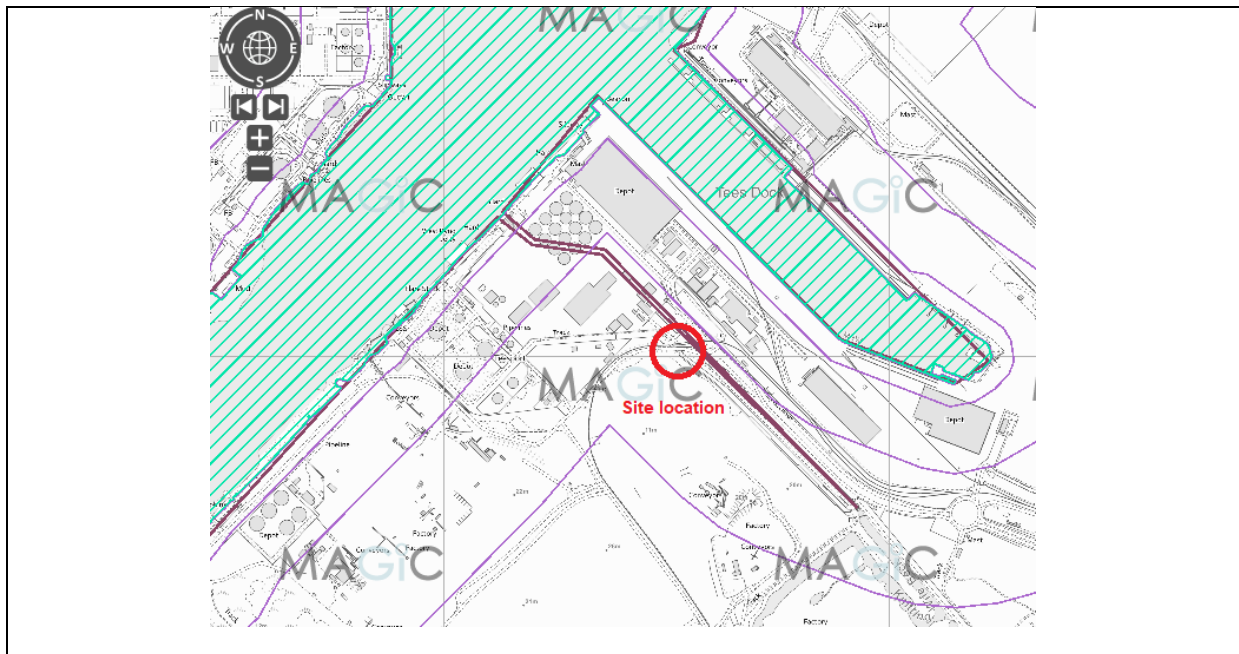
SSSI Impact Risk Zones

7.3 The Defra Magic Maps website gives Impact Risk Zone information and indicates which type of planning application the Local Planning Authority should consult NE on. For this application, the best fit category is 'Infrastructure', which includes 'pipelines' and which does require NE to be consulted (Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1. MAGIC map snip showing SSSI advice on planning consultations.

Site Check Results	
Site Check Report generated on Mon May 17 2021 You selected the location: Centroid Grid Ref: NZ54532300 The following features have been found in your search area:	
SSSI Impact Risk Zones - to assess planning applications for likely impacts on SSSIs/SACs/SPAs & Ramsar sites (England)	
1. DOES PLANNING PROPOSAL FALL INTO ONE OR MORE OF THE CATEGORIES BELOW? All Planning Applications Infrastructure Wind & Solar Energy Minerals, Oil & Gas Rural Non Residential	2. IF YES, CHECK THE CORRESPONDING DESCRIPTION(S) BELOW. LPA SHOULD CONSULT NATURAL ENGLAND ON LIKELY RISKS FROM THE FOLLOWING: All planning applications (except householder) outside or extending outside existing settlements/urban areas affecting greenspace, farmland, semi natural habitats or landscape features such as trees, hedges, streams, rural buildings/structures. Pipelines, pylons and overhead cables. Any transport proposal including road, rail and by water (excluding routine maintenance). Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals. Solar schemes with footprint > 0.5ha, all wind turbines. Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction. Large non residential developments outside existing settlements/urban areas where net additional gross internal floorspace is > 1,000m ² or footprint exceeds 0.2ha.

Figure 2. MAGIC map snip showing SSSI Impact Risk Zones (purple lines).



Locally designated sites

7.4 There are no locally designated sites on or within 2km of the site.

Priority habitats and species

7.5 It is assessed that there are no Priority habitats or Priority species that will be adversely impacted by the proposal. Shelduck, which is not a Priority species but is a Birds of Conservation Concern

'amber-listed' species, occurs on Cleveland Channel to the south of the application site but is assessed as not likely to be adversely impacted.

8. Field survey methodology

8.1 The site was visited on 14 May 2021. Weather conditions at the time of the survey were calm and overcast with a temperature of 9° C.

8.2 The purpose of the survey was to define the nature of the habitats present and consider which species the site supports.

8.3 In addition to classifying the habitats according to JNCC Phase 1 categories [ix], notes were taken on the topography, substrate and key plant indicator species for each habitat. No targeted surveys were undertaken for any taxa however notes were made of any notable species seen and of the potential for notable species to be present. The time of year and the weather conditions were suitable for many species to be evident if present.

8.4 The site visit was undertaken by Graham Megson (MSc Ecology), who is an ecology associate with INCA. He has over 38 years' experience of working in a land management and ecological role, which includes over 30 years as a local authority ecologist. He is an experienced surveyor of habitats, vascular plants, birds, terrestrial vertebrates, Lepidoptera and Odonata.

9. Field survey results

The following Phase 1 habitats were recorded on sites. No Priority habitats were recorded.

Phase 1 habitats

9.1 The following habitats were recorded (Figure 3).

C3.1 Tall ruderal

Steep sided banks on either side of the road and railway track and a level length of inert material carrying industrial pipe infrastructure. The banks are constructed from inert materials. Some parts of the bank are stabilised with rock filled gabion baskets.

The slopes and bases of banks and pipe structures are made of generally inert materials including ballast and these have developed a rough grass and plant vegetation with self-seeded trees and shrubs becoming dominant. There are 'young mature' whitebeam, sycamore and apple trees and a young hawthorn tree. Patches of bramble are developing, along with dog rose, and a Cotoneaster sp. is frequent. Grasses include couch, false-oat and brome, with rosebay willowherb, hogweed, cow parsley, wild carrot, stinging nettle, mugwort, smooth sow-thistle and red 'garden' valerian. Less robust plants include common ragwort, groundsel, ribwort plantain, common toadflax and wild mignonette. The top of the bank is largely bare, with occasional patches of moss and plants.

Figure 3. Habitat photographs.



9.2 No Priority species were recorded. However, several self-seeded *Cotoneaster* sp. plants have become established and are clearly 'invasive'. The *Cotoneasters* were not identified to species; however, several species are listed under either Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981

As a precaution, all *Cotoneasters* cleared from the site should be disposed of responsibly to avoid the spread of this plant.

10. Assessment of baseline ecological conditions

10.1 The VERs for the site have been assessed as to whether they are potentially a constraint to the proposal as follows:

Designated sites – no constraint

Priority habitats – no constraint

Priority species – no constraint

11. Assessment of the impacts of the proposal

11.1 It is assessed that the proposal will have no significant adverse impact on ecology. The responsible removal of Cotoneaster bushes is a positive impact.

12. Recommendations

12.1 It is recommended that the Local Planning Authority issue an informative to advise the applicant of a legal duty.

Informative – Measures will be implemented to prevent the spread of invasive non-native Cotoneaster species, as listed under either Schedule 9 of the WCA 1981 (this is a legal requirement).

12.2 It is recommended that the Local Planning Authority consult Natural England.

13. Conclusion

13.1 The proposed works will not harm any ecological assets subject to the recommendations set out in section 12.

14. References

- i. CIEEM (2016) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal (2nd edition). CIEEM, Winchester.
- ii. BSI Standards Publication (2013), BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development.
- iii. RCBC (2018) South Tees Area SPD. <https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building/local-plan/Pages/South-Tees-Area-SPD.aspx>.
- iv. The National Archives: The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>.
- v. The National Archives: Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>.
- vi. National Archives: Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>.
- vii. Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council [RCBC] (May 2018) Local Plan Adopted May 2018. <https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building/strategic%20planning/Documents/Local%20Plan%20Adopted%20May%202018.pdf>.

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- viii. Department for Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> .
- ix. Joint Nature Conservation Committee [JNCC] (2010) 'Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey. A technique for environmental audit'. Revised re-print. JNCC, Peterborough.