

NYMNPA

22/09/2021

RM/BRS.1556

20 September 2021

Chris France
Director of Planning
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Helmsley
North Yorkshire
YO62 5BP

Dear Mr France,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning Application for Full Planning Permission
Bilsdale Transmitting Station, Bilsdale Moor, North Yorkshire, TS9 7JU (National
Grid Reference E: 455375 N: 496255)
Planning Portal Reference Number: PP-10233288

Pegasus Group has been instructed by Arqiva Limited to submit an application for a temporary broadcasting tower atop Bilsdale Moor. The application seeks North York Moors National Park authority's permission for the following development:

"Erection of 80m lattice broadcasting mast together with 10no. equipment cabinets, access improvement works and ancillary development thereto for a temporary period of 3 years."

Accordingly, the application is accompanied by the following information:

1. Application forms and certificates duly completed and signed;
2. Planning, Design and Access Statement prepared by Pegasus Group;
3. The following drawings:
 - i. Location Plan (drg. no. 140161-00-004-ML009 Rev 9 Sheet 1 of 3);
 - ii. Location Plan (drg. no. 140161-00-004-ML009 Rev 9 Sheet 2 of 3);
 - iii. Location Plan (drg. no. 140161-00-004-ML009 Rev 9 Sheet 3 of 3);
 - iv. Site Plan Proposed (drg. no. 140161-01-120-MD044 Rev 44);
 - v. Site Plan Proposed (drg. no. 140161-01-121-MD044 Rev 44);
 - vi. Elevation Proposed (drg. no. 140161-01-170-MD044 Rev 44);
 - vii. Part Elevation Proposed (drg. no. 140161-01-171-MD044 Rev 44);
 - viii. Elevation Proposed Equipment Containers (drg. no. 140161-01-172-MD044 Rev 44); and
 - ix. Hairpin bend location plan (drg. no. 140161-SK-001).
4. Habitat Regulations Assessment prepared by Clarkson Woods Ecological Consultancy;
5. Construction Method Statement prepared by Arqiva Limited;
6. Technical Justification Statement for the proposed location of the Station Tower prepared by Arqiva Limited;
7. Landscape and Visual Effects note prepared by Pegasus Group;
8. Flood Risk Assessment prepared by Pegasus Group; and
9. Construction Environmental Management Plan prepared by Clarkson Woods.

PLANNING | DESIGN | ENVIRONMENT | ECONOMICS

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Context

This planning application is made pursuant to the requirement for Arqiva Limited to reinstate terrestrial television broadcasting services to thousands of customers who remain without signal following a catastrophic fire to the Bilsdale Transmitting Station in August 2021. The erection of the 'Station Tower' mast referred to in this application for planning permission forms part of Arqiva's response to the damage cause by the fire as explained further within the accompanying Planning, Design and Access Statement.

Planning permission is sought for a temporary period of 3 years within which time it is envisaged that a permanent replacement mast will be deployed to fully reinstate coverage.

Screening

The applicant further requests that North York Moors National Park Authority adopt a screening opinion in respect of the proposed development under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 under Regulation 6 (1). The information within the application pack is provided in accordance with Regulation 6 (2) which states that a request for screening opinion shall be accompanied by:

<p>(a) a plan sufficient to identify the land;</p> <p>(b) a description of the development, including in particular –</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) a description of the physical characteristics of the development and, where relevant, of any demolition works;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) a description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected;</p> <p>(c) a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development;</p> <p>(d) to the extent the information is available, a description of any likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment resulting from –</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity; and</p> <p>(e) such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make, including any features of the proposed development or any measures envisaged</p>	<p>(a) please refer to accompanying Site Location Plan Sheets 1 to 3 (drg. no. 140161-00-004-ML009 Rev 9).</p> <p>(b) A description of the development is provided within the accompanying Planning, Design and Access Statement together with a description of the location of the development and identification of environmental constraints and sensitivity.</p> <p>(c) A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development is provided within the Planning, Design and Access Statement.</p> <p>(d) A description of likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment is provided within the accompanying Planning, Design and Access Statement and the Habitat Regulations Assessment.</p>
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to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment.	
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The application fee of £1,848.00 has been paid to the Planning Portal by electronic transfer.

I trust the above and enclosed enables you to register the application. However, should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Richard Morison
Principal Planner
e-mail:

cc Arqiva Limited

NYMNP

22/09/2021

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY 80M MAST

PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

BILSDALE TRANSMITTING STATION, BILSDALE MOOR, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ON BEHALF OF ARQIVA LTD

**TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)
PLANNING AND COMPULSORY PURCHASE ACT 2004**

Prepared by: Richard Morison

Pegasus Group

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DESIGN | **ENVIRONMENT** | **PLANNING** | **ECONOMICS** | **HERITAGE**

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pegasus Group has been instructed by Arqiva Limited to submit a full planning application in respect of the deployment of an 80m lattice tower construction for a temporary period of 3 years to be situated atop Bilsdale Moor. The application site, Bilsdale Transmitting Station, is currently characterised by the damaged remains of a 310m broadcasting tower and buildings at the base which were the subject of catastrophic fire damage in August 2021. Since that time, Arqiva has been establishing a means to provide replacement coverage to the many hundreds of thousands of homes that were affected by the fire, typically through a reduction in terrestrial service coverage.
- 1.2 The proposed 80m tower subject of this application or 'Station Tower', as it is referred to throughout this document, is required in order to provide a continuity of terrestrial broadcast coverage to many thousands of households until such a time as a permanent replacement for the damaged 310m tower becomes fully operational.
- 1.3 This planning submission seeks permission for the construction of the temporary mast and includes details on the phased approach to the construction of the mast. The various landscape and ecological constraints that apply to the site are identified within this document and a context for the development together with envisaged next steps at the transmitting station are also discussed.
- 1.4 The application is supported by a raft of information which should be read in conjunction with this Planning, Design and Access Statement as listed on the covering letter that accompanies the submission. The description of development as listed on the planning application forms is for the:

"Erection of 80m lattice broadcasting mast together with 10no. equipment cabinets, access improvement works and ancillary development thereto for a temporary period of 3 years."

2. SITE DESCRIPTION AND PLANNING HISTORY

Application Site

- 2.1 The application site is formed of part of the existing compound area for Bilsdale Transmitting Station, a parcel of land to the immediate east of the existing compound area and a section of existing trackway that provides access to the application site directly onto the B1257 approximately 2km to the east of the site.
- 2.2 The compound area is currently comprised of the damaged broadcasting mast, itself a 310m stayed broadcasting tower of tubular construction, various equipment cabinets and housing at ground level, transmission dishes and broadcasting equipment situated at ground level together with areas of hard standing. Parts of Bilsdale Transmitting Station has been condemned following a detailed structural review from specialist engineering and environmental firm, Cowi. The existing 310m mast will be removed at Arqiva's earliest opportunity due to safety concerns and potential uncontrolled toppling. The current condition of the site is a result of fire damage caused on 10th August 2021.
- 2.3 All of the site falls within the North York Moors National Park. Parts of the site fall within various ecological designations that affect the surrounding moorland, these being:
- North York Moors SSSI covering 44,087 hectares (Citation No. 20000356);
 - North York Moors Special Protection Area covering 44,087 hectares (Reference. UK9006161); and
 - North York Moors Special Area of Conservation covering 44,082 hectares (Reference. UK0030228).
- 2.4 The access trackway falls partly within and partly outside of these ecological designations. The trackway itself is in place having been built in the 1960s at the time the original transmitting station was built.
- 2.5 There are no listed buildings or ancient monuments located within the boundary of the site. The nearest designated heritage asset to the transmitting station is a Scheduled Ancient Monument recorded as 'round barrow on Bilsdale West Moor know as Flat Howe' (Reference 1008518), this being approximately 300m to the north of the transmitting station. The site is not located within or adjacent to a conservation area. There are no conservation areas within 1km of the site.

- 2.6 There are no Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) that intersect the transmitting station or run immediately adjacent to the boundary edge.
- 2.7 Part of the access track required to facilitate the development falls within Flood Zone 3. Accordingly a Flood Risk Assessment accompanies this application.
- 2.8 The existing access point onto the B1257 is formed of a tarmacked area with visibility extending over 100m in each direction. The B1257 is under national speed limit regulations in the vicinity of the site access point. The access includes a slip road onto the access track for vehicles travelling north as shown in the below photograph:



Photograph showing slip road access to the site

Planning History

- 2.9 Planning permission for the original Bilsdale Transmitting Station has been in place since the 1960s and the site has been operational for over 50 years. There are various applications over time relating to minor upgrade works relating to the broadcasting operation of the site.
- 2.10 On 10th August 2021 a fire caused significant damage to the transmitting site. As a result of the fire, many hundreds of thousands of properties suffered a dramatic loss in terrestrial television service coverage. Rectifying the situation and providing a replacement service is in the public interest and Arqiva has been working on various technical solutions since the fire to provide replacement coverage whilst

working within the constraints of a site that is highly protected for its landscape quality as well as internationally recognised status as a valuable site for ecology.

- 2.11 In September 2021 Arqiva submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment request for screening opinion in relation to a parcel of land approximately 400m to the southwest of the transmitting station on the site of a former quarry. The park authority issued a negative screening opinion in respect of this project (ref. NYM.2021/ENQ/8310). Under emergency powers conferred under Part 16 of the General Permitted Development Order Arqiva have now proceeded to deploy a temporary, moveable mast within the former quarry.
- 2.12 This temporary mast in the quarry site is intended to be in place for a short period of time and has been deployed as an emergency measure in response to the loss of coverage. The quarry site mast is not designed to be safely installed over the winter months.

Pre-Application

- 2.13 Prior to the submission of this application the applicant entered into pre-application discussion with the National Park Authority in respect of the ongoing developments at Bilsdale Transmitting Station, in terms of the damage caused to the original installation, the urgent need to provide replacement coverage in the public interest and the various ecological constraints that must be taken into account when planning for replacement structures temporary or permanent.

3. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Planning permission is sought for the deployment of an 80m lattice tower to be installed for a temporary period of 3 years.

Station Tower

3.2 The Station Tower, subject of this application is required in order to provide a mast that is capable of safely being deployed for the time period required to secure a permanent replacement to the damaged mast. The mast will provide broadcasting services to many hundreds of thousands of households and provide a valuable public benefit through continuity of service to households who would otherwise be without a terrestrial signal. The built elements of the application are comprised of:

- An 80m structure of lattice steel design to be finished in galvanised steel. The structure will host a variety of broadcasting equipment including antenna, transmission dishes and ancillary development thereto as shown within the accompanying elevation drawings. The lattice section itself extends up to a height of 68.8m where the remaining height is formed of the broadcast antenna. The tower will be construction on a concrete base.
- 10no. equipment cabinets situated at ground level within a compound area. The equipment cabinets perform a variety of functions relating to the mast including management of power supply and radio equipment housing;
- Steel grillage and access gantries at ground level;
- Compound fencing comprised of a mesh security fence measuring 2m tall.

3.3 The Station Tower will utilise existing mains power which is provided to the existing Bilsdale Transmitting Station. No new power lines are required to facilitate the development.

Access

3.4 The Construction Method Statement (CMS) prepared by Arqiva sets done detail in respect of the phased approach to construction access. In broad terms, two phases of construction access are proposed:

- Phase 1 – Minor construction works and site preparation that can be carried out using light construction vehicles without the need for improvement

works to the eastern access approach with the exception of minor widening of a hairpin bend as described within the accompanying CMS.

- Phase 2 – Construction works that will require crane assembly and helicopter construction works at the site.

3.5 No improvement works to existing access arrangements are required as part of phase 1 where vehicles can access the site utilising the existing access road with the exception of works to the hairpin described above. Phase 1 access is required for the following build elements which are detailed within the accompanying CMS:

- Site set up;
- Excavation;
- Shuttering;
- Concrete Pour;
- Phase 1 completion works.

3.6 Given access requirements for phase 2 will be finalised in the coming months, the applicant invites a planning condition to be attached to a planning permission that would allow the applicant to furnish the authority with the appropriate detail once this has been confirmed. A suggested wording for such a condition is provided as follows:

'Prior to commencement of works associated with the phase 2 access arrangements, further details of the phase 2 access arrangements, including vehicular requirements and anticipated movements, alongside any required updated impact assessment, shall be provided to the Local Planning Authority and any required measures to ensure acceptable impacts shall be provided.'

Construction Phase

3.7 An existing area of hard standing will be utilised as a construction staging area for the duration of the construction phase. This area is easily accessible via the existing access track and will be used to store construction equipment, construction materials and provide temporary welfare cabins for site workers. Welfare cabs will include toilet facilities where any foul generated will be captured by tank on site

and exported at appropriate times. No waste water, left over construction materials or rubbish will be allowed to be left on the moor.

Decommissioning

- 3.8 A temporary planning permission of three years from implementation is sought. The works proposed are fully reversible where the mast is expected to be decommissioned at the end of its operational period. The applicant would be glad to accept a suitably worded compliance condition relating to decommissioning.

4. PLANNING POLICY

4.1 In this section the national and local planning policy and guidance pertinent to the application site and development proposals is summarised. The plan-led approach to development, as set out by Section 38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, requires development proposals to accord with the adopted Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.2 The Development Plan documents of relevant to this application are the:

- Adopted North York Moors National Park Authority Local Plan (July 2020).

4.3 Material considerations of relevance to this application are:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (February 2019); and
- National Planning Practice Guidance.

4.4 The relevant policies are discussed below.

North York Moors National Park Authority Local Plan (July 2020)

4.5 In addition to specific development management policies that are set down within the plan, various Strategic Policies are also provided which are of relevance to the development proposed. Strategic Policies of particular relevance are summarised below.

4.6 **Strategic Policy A** (Achieving National Park Purposes and Sustainable Development) sets down a general requirement that decisions must be consistent with the National Park statutory purposes to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

4.7 **Strategic Policy D** (Major Development) states that proposal for major development shall be refused except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that they are in the public interest. The applicant is mindful that there is no definition for 'major' development in this context where NPPF footnote 60 states this is a matter for the decision maker. As set down in the Planning Assessment section of this statement, the effects of this development will be temporary and can be controlled by the authority by way of planning condition. On

this basis, the development could be considered not to be 'major'. Nevertheless a justification for the need for development are provided as part of the overall submission package.

- 4.8 **Strategic Policy E** (The Natural Environment) states that the quality and diversity of the natural environment of the North York Moors National Park will be conserved and enhanced where development which has an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, the wildlife it supports and the environmental benefits it provides will not be permitted.
- 4.9 **Strategic Policy G** (Landscape) states that the high quality, diverse and distinctive landscapes of the North York Moors will be conserved and enhanced.
- 4.10 **Policy ENV7** relates to environmental protection states that in order to protect the natural environment, development will only be permitted where it does harm water quality, have unacceptable adverse impact on soil quality, is not located on sizeable areas of BMV agricultural land, does not have an adverse impact on air quality, does not generate unacceptable levels of noise, vibration or odour and there would be no unacceptable adverse effects arising from sources of pollution which would impact on the health, safety and amenity of the public and users of the development.
- 4.11 **Policy BL6** relates to tracks sets down requirements that any proposal to install, alter or extend tracks must, amongst other things, be of a scale and alignment and proposed materials that do not have an adverse impact on the specialist qualities of the National Park.
- 4.12 **Policy BL10** relates to communications infrastructure stating that the provision of infrastructure for radio, broadband and other telecommunications and information technology will only be permitted where it is of a scale and design appropriate to the National Park and helps meet the needs of local communities.

Other Material Considerations

National Planning Policy Framework

- 4.13 The 2012 NPPF was replaced by a new version of the NPPF, published July 2021. The new NPPF came into effect immediately. The new NPPF re-emphasises that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable

development and that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are independent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways. These objectives are set down at paragraph 8 as follows:

- **Economic Objective** – To help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- **Social Objective** – To support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and sage built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being’ and
- **Environmental Objective** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

4.14 Section 10 relates to support for high quality communications infrastructure where paragraph 114 states that advanced, high quality and reliable communications infrastructure is essential for economic growth and social wellbeing.

4.15 Section 15 relates to conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Paragraph 176 states that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks. Which have the highest states of protection.

5. PLANNING ASSESSMENT

5.1 Following a consideration of the context for the proposals, the temporary nature of the installation and the planning policy position, the following matters are identified and discusses:

- i. The urgent need for the development;
- ii. Justification for location of development;
- iii. Detrimental Effects on the Environment;
- iv. Explanation of temporary nature of development;
- v. Benefits of the proposal.

i) The urgent need for the development

5.2 Following the fire at the main transmitting site, the operator sought to respond to the demand for replacement coverage through the deployment of an emergency mast, this now having been deployed at the quarry site. This emergency mast is not however designed to be safely deployed over the winter months where ice loading will affect broadcasting equipment. In order to deliver continuity of service and allow for the quarry mast to be safely switched off, the applicant has proposed a design for a more robust temporary Station Tower, the subject of this application, that is temporary in nature but capable of safely operating until such time as the long term replacement of the mast is delivered.

5.3 Without the proposed Station Tower, the level of service around the site would revert to the levels experienced after the fire as the quarry mast would need to be switched off with no ready replacement. There is therefore a clear and urgent public interest in the deployment of the Station Mast given the forthcoming autumn and winter weather.

ii) Justification for the Development

5.4 The application package is supported by a statement supporting the proposed location of the Station Tower, prepared by Arqiva's Head of Engineering. The statement provides a technical justification for the proposed development which can be summarised as:

- Ability of the Station Tower site to link with the wider broadcasting network given its position atop Bilsdale Moor;
- Elevated ground height atop Bilsdale Moor provides for a greater coverage potential. This importantly reduces the need for additional masts elsewhere in the surrounds to provide the replacement coverage required;
- No other sites have been identified that can meet the design parameters.

iii) Detrimental Effects on the Environment

5.5 The effects of the development are primarily twofold, the effect on the ecology of the surrounding area through the construction and operational phase of the development and the visual impact of the proposal.

5.6 The application is supported by a Habitat Regulations Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment prepared by Clarkson Woods. The document considers the ecological impact of the proposals and the likely significant effects on the North York Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and North York Moors SPA. The report concludes that the project has the potential to impact upon the SPA and SAC where potential impacts are identified as:

- Potential for damage and therefore loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat.
- Trampling of vegetation and soil compaction by working party & plant.
- Potential impacts of concrete and other materials on soil and surrounding habitat quality.
- Potential fuel spillage and localised air quality impacts from use of plant and transportation to and from site.
- Potential for disturbance or loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat during process which may disturb or displace nesting birds or dependent young and damage nests.
- Potential chemical spillages and ingestion by birds, or damage to supporting habitat features.
- Soil and vegetation compaction along transport/ access routes.

5.7 Appropriate mitigation and remedial measures are proposed to ensure that the construction of the new tower within the European site results in minimal impact upon the European dry heaths. The loss of 0.17 hectares of habitat during the

duration of the development will have short term adverse effects but will not adversely affect site integrity given the small area of land involved and the temporary nature of the impacts over the life of the permission.

- 5.8 The temporary loss and damage to the Sites resulting from the project are considered to result in no adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites. Further mitigation measures, such as the management of fuels by appropriate management plans and the appropriate briefing and training to site staff will minimise the risks of adverse effects as far as is possible.
- 5.9 Some uncertainty exists at this stage as to the method of construction for the 'air works' phase of work. Uncertainty also exists associated with the stage 2 access. In the event these works are likely to result in any significant additional impacts beyond those described within this assessment an amended habitats regulation assessment would be presented for further consideration to ensure that impacts, effects and requirement for mitigation are fully considered. Finally monitoring of the site is proposed by an ecological clerk of works, during construction, during operation, during decommissioning and during the recovery phase. This ensures that opportunities to identify and remediate any adverse impacts can be realised.
- 5.10 In addition to the HRA, the application is further supported by a Construction Environmental Management Plan. This document provides a services of objectives which, if met, will ensure that retained ecological features are safeguarded during the construction phase.
- 5.11 The submission package is supported by a Landscape and Visual Effects assessment summary which considers the visual change associated with the development. The concluding comments within the assessment summary state:

"It is acknowledged that the special qualities of the North York Moors National Park, as set out in the North York Moors National Park Management Plan (first review 2016) (page 8), include 'Great diversity of landscape' and the 'Sudden dramatic contrasts associated with this' as well as the 'Wide sweeps of open heather moorland'. The proposed mast would be the type of development which might have the potential to bring about landscape and visual effects that could impact upon these special qualities. However, as noted above, in this case the proposed development is coming forward following the removal of the existing more substantial 310m mast. As such, there would be a net reduction in landscape and

visual effects which would arise when compared with the existing mast and therefore no new impact on the special qualities of the National Park.”

- 5.12 Accordingly, given that a net reduction in landscape and visual effects would result from the proposals and the effects would be for a fixed, temporary time period, the overall visual effects associated with the development are assessed as low.
- 5.13 Overall, the environmental affects of the development are identified as resulting in a short term adverse effects that will not adversely affect site’s ecological integrity or the special characteristics of the national park given the small area of land involved and the temporary nature of the impacts over the life of the permission.

iv) Temporary Development

- 5.14 Planning permission is sought for a temporary period of three years. This time period is required in order to allow Arqiva to provide continuity of service whilst the design and construction details of a permanent mast replacement can be finalised and the permanent mast built and made operational. Given the various technical and ecological constraints that would be applicable to any development of a permanent mast, Arqiva requires the three year period requested in order to appropriately approach the design of this mast in a diligent and responsible manner.

v) Benefits

- 5.15 The Station Mast proposed will provide continuity of broadcast terrestrial television signal for hundreds of thousands of people whilst plans for a permanent replacement structure are finalised and advanced. The Station Tower will also mean that continuous coverage will be provided when the emergency temporary quarry mast, situated at the quarry to the south west of the site, is switched off prior to the winter months. This benefits is hugely in the public interest given the number of people affected by loss of coverage.

6. DESIGN AND ACCESS

- 6.1 The design of the temporary structure is a traditional lattice steel design which is capable of safely being deployed at the application site whilst achieving the design brief of providing continuity of service when the quarry mast is switched off.
- 6.2 The lattice design is relatively simple. It is comprised of a tapering tower profile where the base of the mast is wider than the upper sections. Steel beams are fixed to each other to provide the structural strength. The steel lattice beams will have a galvanised steel finish.
- 6.3 The lattice tower construction extends to a maximum height of 68.8m, above which are positioned broadcasting antennas. There are various transmission dishes fixed to the tower itself which would be largely hidden by the scale of the mast and their positioning against the backdrop of steel beams.
- 6.4 The fence required at ground level is a 2m tall steel mesh design. This will mirror as closely as possible the existing fence that surrounds the Bilsdale Transmitting Site.
- 6.5 The site will not be accessible to members of the public. The compound area is secured.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 This planning application seeks a temporary planning permission for an 80m lattice mast which will provide terrestrial broadcast coverage for hundreds of thousands of households whom would otherwise be without coverage following the fire at Bilsdale Transmitting Station. As a result of the fire in August 2021 the applicant has established that the damaged mast cannot be repaired and has been seeking means to deploy emergency replacement coverage since.
- 7.2 The Station Tower proposed will allow Arqiva to finalise and progress with designs for a permanent replacement structure whilst providing continuity of service to the surrounds upon the shut down of an emergency mast positioned in a nearby quarry. The environmental affects of the development are considered through the supporting information included with the submission, including a Construction Method Statement, Habitat Risk Assessment and Ecological Method Statement.
- 7.3 There is a strong and urgent public interest in establishing continuity of coverage to those affected by the Bilsdale Transmitter fire. Many thousands of people will benefit from the coverage provided by the proposed development where the effects are demonstrated to be reversible and would only be relevant to the limited time period sought by the applicant.

Bilsdale Transmitting Station – Flood Risk Assessment

This Flood Risk Assessment accompanies a planning application for the erection of an 80m lattice structure for a temporary period of 3 years. The lattice structure itself will be situated atop Bilsdale Moor where access to the site will be gained via an existing access track which extends eastwards from the application site, down from the moor to the point where it meets the B1257 approximately 2km to the east of the site.

The majority of the application site falls within Flood Zone 1, the area least at risk from flood events. However, part of the land required for access falls within land shown to be Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3 according to the Government Flood Map for planning. These areas at risk from flooding are along the route of the River Seph and are shown in the below map extract where the construction access route is shown by way of red arrow:

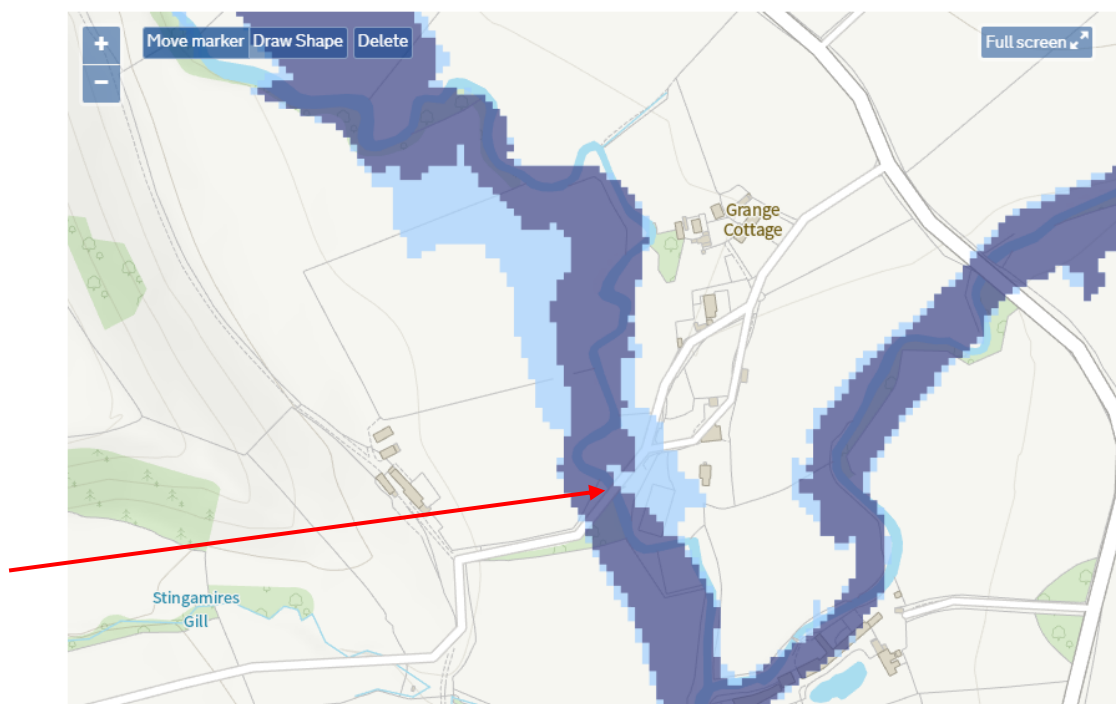


Figure 1: Flood Zones 2 and 3

Assessment

No building works are proposed within or adjacent to the area shown to be at risk from flooding. The development proposed will not increase the risk of flooding by virtue of the built form being situated over 1.8km to the west. There are no other available access routes to the site that can safely accommodate the construction equipment that are not in the flood zone.

The use of the access road for construction vehicles will be regulated by the development team. In the event of any inclement weather that increases the risk of flooding, construction operations that require access would cease until such time as flooding levels return to normal. The developer will sign up to Environment Agency flood alerts and the build phase will be closely controlled by appointed contractor.

NYMNPA

22/09/2021

INFORMATION TO INFORM HABITAT REGULATIONS STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT BILSDALE 80M STATION TOWER CONSTRUCTION

PREPARED BY

TOM CLARKSON, CLARKSON & WOODS LTD.

ON BEHALF OF

ARQIVA

FOR CONSULTATION WITH

NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY





INFORMATION TO INFORM HABITAT REGULATIONS

STAGE 2 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

BILSDALE 80M STATION TOWER CONSTRUCTION

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DOCUMENT TRACKING SHEET

Project title:	BILSDALE 80M STATION TOWER CONSTRUCTION		
Document title:	HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENT – STAGE 2	Project number:	7723
Client:	ARQIVA	Author:	Tom Clarkson
Version 1	FIRST DRAFT	Issued on:	20/09/21
Version 2	FINAL DRAFT	Issued on:	20/09/21
Quality Assurance	Checked by:	Approved by:	

The information, data and advice which has been prepared and provided is true, and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. This report and its contents remain the property of Clarkson and Woods Ltd. until payment has been made in full.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1 Clarkson and Woods Ltd ('C&W') was commissioned in August 2021 by Arqiva to undertake assessment work, including preparing a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in connection with the proposed construction of a temporary broadcast transmission Station tower at Bilsdale West Moor. This HRA report provides information to support the Appropriate Assessment (AA) stage of HRA, which considers whether the likely significant effects on the North York Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and North York Moors SPA which were identified through the first screening stage of the HRA have a potential effect on the site's integrity.
- 1.1.2 In the preparation of this document consultation with Elspeth Ingleby, North York Moors National Parks Authority (NYMNP) Ecologist has been conducted. Reference has been made to the earlier Habitats Regulation Assessment screening exercise prepared by Ms Ingleby (02/09/21) in relation to the temporary transmitter mast application. A specific screening exercise is completed it is anticipated that the outcome of a screening assessment will be that there is potential for significant effects. As such, and in order to expedite the assessment process, an appropriate assessment has thus been prepared.

THE PROJECT

- 1.1.3 To secure broadcast facilities at the Bilsdale Moor Site for the forthcoming 36 months whilst a new broadcast tower is designed and constructed Arqiva propose to erect a temporary 80m Station transmission tower which can provide the necessary transmission services. The objective is that this tower is erected at the earliest opportunity to take over transmission services from the 80m temporary transmission mast erected in the quarry.
- 1.1.4 The key stages within the project are as follows:
- **Site Preparation** broadly consisting of the creation of a main construction compound including welfare facilities, delivery of plant and materials to site
 - **Foundation and Staging Area Construction** comprising ground investigations and subsequent excavation of a foundation for the new Station tower structure. This includes the delivery and pouring of approx.. 90m³ of concrete
 - **Air Works** entailing construction of the above ground elements of the tower.
 - **Tower operation** once constructed it is anticipated that the tower will be operational for 18-36 months
 - **Removal of Tower** the tower is a temporary structure and will be removed at some stage, likely coordinated with the construction of the permanent tower.
 - **Reinstatement of Area** reinstatement of the area, including the removal of stone and concrete, re-spreading of soils collected during site clearance and reseeded areas with heather.

Land Take & Land Damage

- 1.1.5 An area of hard standing (site staging area) will be established to the east of the main compound area to house welfare, materials and plant during construction. Soils (primarily topsoil and peat) and vegetation



within this compound area will be cleared to a depth of approx. 200mm to a firm ground strata and removed soil stockpiled on site within a suitably sized spoil heap for reuse upon removal of the staging area. It is anticipated that the staging area will comprise a total area of 1100m² (0.11ha) from within the SAC/SPA. Topsoil will be stored off-site, stockpiled in a linear rows now greater than 3m wide x 1.5m high. This will ensure that biofauna and microbes within a topsoil stock piles can remain active and that the soil remain productive.

- 1.1.6 The foundation works require the clearance of an area immediately adjacent to the staging area of approx. 600m² from within the SAC/SPA. Topsoil/peat excavated from the surface layer will be stored in the same stock pile as from the adjacent staging area excavations. Sub-soils would be stored separately, again adopting the same approach of low, linear rows of soil. Given the constraints associated with site works and given the desire to affect a minimum amount of habitat all soils will be stored off-site and returned to site upon decommissioning of the tower.
- 1.1.7 The total site area of the works comprises 0.24ha, which comprises a total of 0.17ha of land within the SAC/SPA and 0.7ha of land within the existing site compound, which lies beyond the SAC/SPA boundary.
- 1.1.8 Construction of the tower, upon completion of foundation work will be principally from the staging area, thereby avoiding requirement for further damage or land-take around the proposed tower location. Nevertheless, so as to manage trampling and compaction ground protection matting will be installed around the foundation site.
- 1.1.9 All requirement for land is temporary. The intention is to fully restore the habitat removed for the Station tower construction upon completion of operation and for the removed soils to be replaced and the area seeded with heather to allow a full restoration to the existing dry heath habitat.

Duration of Works

- 1.1.10 The construction programme for the Civils works (i.e. works to build welfare and foundations) is currently planned at 3 weeks.
- 1.1.11 Air works (i.e. the construction of the above ground elements of the tower) are forecast at 3-8 weeks.
- 1.1.12 Operationally the tower will be functional for up to 36 months depending upon the timeframe for construction of the new permanent replacement tower.
- 1.1.13 No timeframe is yet identified for deconstruction of the temporary broadcast tower although it is broadly anticipated that the same 10 week programme for construction will be repeated (only in reverse).

Emissions (by Project during construction and operation on European Site)

- 1.1.14 During the works there is an inescapable but small and managed risk of incidental pollution by machinery used during the construction works from fuels, oils etc. All vehicles will carry spill kits and drip trays will be used for all vehicles when parked overnight. Designated refuelling areas will be identified.
- 1.1.15 The tower will be mains powered with a back up generator. This is as per the existing (now defunct) broadcast tower.



Access for Construction (and dismantling) Tower

- 1.1.16 Access is specifically being approached in two phases. Phase 1 requires no significant access or highways works beyond slight modification to the access track as detailed within the site method statement (and summarised in this HRA). Details of Phase 2 access arrangements are proposed as a condition of planning. At this stage the requirements for Phase 2 access are being formulated and once requirements are fully worked through, additional detail, including a fully updated assessment will be provided to the local planning authority as part of a discharge of condition. It is recognised that in the event the access requirement for Phase 2 require modification of access tracks to the mast site (and specifically modification of tracks within the SAC) then an update or amendment to this HRA will be necessary. It is assumed at present that access for Phase 2 will be identical to that of Phase 1.
- 1.1.17 It is assumed that access requirements for dismantling of the tower will be as per the construction.
- 1.1.18 It should be noted that some of the principal technical reasons behind this phased approach to site access lie in assessment of access constraints beyond the SAC/SPA boundary, such as the crossing of a weak bridge, and as such may not necessitate modification of the HRA.

Resource Requirements

- 1.1.19 The construction process will not require any resources from the European site. All materials will be brought onto site rather than being from the designated site. The construction process will require considerable volume of concrete (approx. 140m³), loose aggregate (720T), the metal framework of the new tower which will be delivered in sections to site, rebar (for concrete strengthening), shuttering, welfare facilities, plant and fencing).
- 1.1.20 For the civils work a 13T tracked excavator, 2x 6T dumpers and a Bomag 180 roller will be required.
- 1.1.21 The plant proposed for the air works is anticipated to be 70T crane, helicopter, 2x telehandler, tractor/trailer, and MEWP.

Excavation Requirements

- 1.1.22 Significant excavations are anticipated to be necessary as part of the project. In total it is anticipated that 300T of soils may be removed from the site to facilitate the construction of the staging area and foundation. It is anticipated that this excavation may have an impact upon local hydrology, although as the location selected for the tower is close to the very top of the moor this will limit the hydrological impacts of excavations and construction.

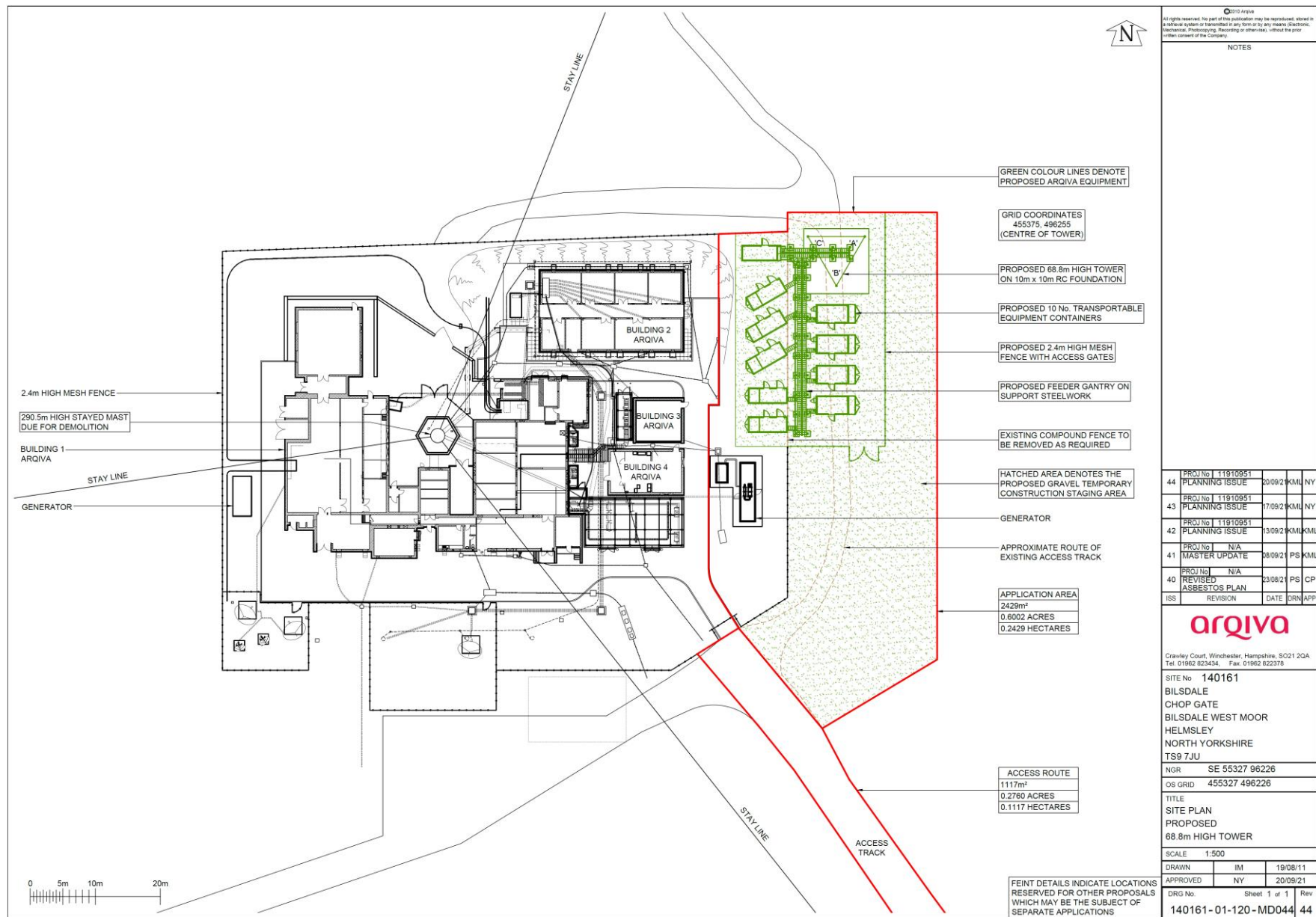


Figure 1: Site Layout Plan



THE NATURA 2000 SITE

- 1.1.23 The screening stage of the HRA identified two Natura 2000 sites (see overleaf, for definition) within the Zone of Influence (Zoi) of the Project, the North York Moors SAC and the North York Moors SPA (hereafter collectively referred to as 'the Site' as the two designations cover the same area). The data sheets for the designated site is provided in Appendix B.
- 1.1.24 The Site contains the largest continuous tract of heather moorland in England. The site displays a wide range of high quality dry heathland and blanket bog vegetation types dominated by *Calluna*. The transition from dry heathland to blanket bog is complemented by a diverse mosaic of wet heath and flush communities.
- 1.1.25 Dry heath covers over half the site and forms the main vegetation type on the western, southern and central moors where the soil is free-draining and has only a thin peat layer. The principal habitat type present is heather, wavy hair-grass (*Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa*) heath, with some heather – bell heather *Erica cinerea* heath on well-drained areas throughout the site, and large areas of heather – bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* heath on steeper slopes.
- 1.1.26 Threats and pressures on the Site (JNCC, 2016) include:
- *Air pollution*
 - *Planning permissions*
 - *Energy production*
 - *Wildfire/arson*
- 1.1.27 Conservation objectives for the Site (Natural England 2018) are to Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;
- *The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats*
 - *The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and,*
 - *The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely*
 - *The population of each of the qualifying features (SPA only), and*
 - *The distribution of the qualifying features within the site (SPA only).*

1.2 REQUIREMENT FOR HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 1.2.1 The European Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 ('The Habitats Directive') and the Council Directive 79/409/EEC ('The Wild Birds Directive') requires European Union (EU) member states to create a network of protected wildlife areas, known as Natura 2000 sites, across the EU. This network consists of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and SPAs, the aim of the Natura 2000 network of sites is to maintain long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.
- 1.2.2 The European Commission approved a list of candidate SACs (cSACs) submitted by the UK, following an assessment to make sure the Habitats Directive had been applied consistently across the EU. This results in the cSACs becoming Sites of Community Importance, which are sites that have been adopted by the EC before they are formally designated as SACs by the UK government.



1.2.3 Article 6 (3) of the European Union Habitats Directive (1992, as amended, 'the Habitats Directive') sets out the need for 'Appropriate Assessment' of plans or projects which have potential to affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site (including SPAs, SACs, and candidate SAC (cSAC) sites such as those in proximity to the Project):

- *'Any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications for the site. The competent authorities can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned' (Article 6.3).*

1.2.4 As the purpose of the Natura 2000 network is preservation of examples of species and habitats across Europe, rather than preservation of individual sites, Article 6 (4) allows for exceptional circumstances where negative effects may be permitted. This reads as follows:

- *'In exceptional circumstances, a plan or project may still be allowed to go ahead, in spite of a negative assessment, provided there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project is considered to be of overriding public interest . In such cases the Member State must take appropriate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 Network is protected.'* (Article 6.4)

1.2.5 The Habitats Directive is translated into domestic law in England through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('Habitat Regulations'). Regulation 63 (1) states that 'A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which

- — (a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and
- (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,
—must make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objective.'

1.2.6 Like the Habitats Directive, the Habitat Regulations also make allowance for projects or plans to be completed if they satisfy 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI)'³ . Regulations 64 and 68 relate to such situations.

1.3 STAGES OF HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

1.3.1 Guidance on the Habitats Directive (European Commission, 2000) sets out the step wise approach which should be followed to enable Competent Authorities to discharge their duties under the Habitats Directive and provides further clarity on the interpretation of Articles 6 (3) and 6 (4). The process used is usually summarised in four distinct stages of assessment.

- Stage 1: Screening: the process which identifies whether effects upon a Natura 2000 site of a plan or project are possible, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects; and considers whether these effects are likely to be significant.
- Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (AA): the detailed consideration of the effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, with respect to the site's conservation objectives and its structure and function.



- Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions: the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.
- Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse effects remain: an assessment of whether the development is necessary for IROPI and, if so, of the compensatory measures needed to maintain the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

1.4 PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF REPORT

1.4.1 This report documents the process and the findings to inform the Stage 2 AA of the HRA. Following this introductory section, the document is organised into a further three sections:

- Section 2 – outlines the method used for the provision of information to inform the Appropriate Assessment and includes reference to the key information sources used and the consultation comments received to date.
- Section 3 – outlines the process and summary findings of the Appropriate Assessment.
- Section 4 – outlines the conclusions and how the Project should now proceed with reference to the Habitats Regulations.

1.4.2 The precautionary principle is applied at all stages of the HRA. In relation to AA, this means that projects or plans where effects following mitigation are considered likely and those where uncertainty exists as to whether effects are likely to be significant must be subject to the third stage of the HRA process, Assessment of alternative solutions.

2 METHOD

2.1 STAGE 1: SCREENING

PROCESS

2.1.1 A The Stage 1 Screening report has not been completed as it seems certain that there will be temporary impacts associated with the excavations and construction of the new tower upon the habitats within the SAC. As such, and principally in order to expedite the process of assessment no formal screening exercise has been completed. Instead a review of the likely impacts of the proposal has been completed taking due account of the outcome of the screening assessment prepared for the construction of the temporary mast within the quarry some 450m to the south east has been completed.

RESULTS

2.1.2 A review of the proposals has identified the following potential effects of the proposed tower construction which might need to be considered in relation to their effect on the designated sites.

- *Potential for damage and therefore loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat*
- *Trampling of vegetation and soil compaction by working party & plant*
- *Potential impacts of concrete and other materials on soil and surrounding habitat quality*
- *Potential fuel spillage and localised air quality impacts from use of plant and transportation to and from site;*
- *Potential for disturbance or loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat during process which may disturb or displace nesting birds or dependent young and damage nests.*



- Potential chemical spillages and ingestion by birds, or damage to supporting habitat features.
- Soil and vegetation compaction along transport/ access routes

2.1.3 There is also the potential of in-combination with effects associated with the erection of the temporary transmitted mast within the quarry, the erection of the new (long term temporary) Station tower, and ultimately the construction of the new replacement mast.

2.2 STAGE 2: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 The key tasks employed for AA stage of the HRA are set out in Table 1 (overleaf).

Table 1 - Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment process

Task	Details
Task 1 Scoping and Additional Information Gathering	Gather additional information on Natura 2000 sites, including background environmental conditions. Further analysis of plans/projects that have the potential to generate 'in-combination' effects.
Task 2 Assessing the effect on integrity of the Natura 2000 site	Examination of the policies and proposals identified during the screening phase and their likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. Consideration of whether effects are direct/indirect/cumulative. Consideration of whether other plans and programme are likely to generate effects that have the potential to act cumulatively with those arising from the plan.
Task 3 Developing Mitigation Measures (including initial avoidance)	If effects identified – either arising from the plan alone and/or 'incombination' with other plans – consider initial opportunities to avoid. Develop mitigation measures – must be deliverable by the project and have clear delivery/monitoring responsibilities.
Task 4 Findings & Recommendations	Conclude the assessment, explain key findings and analysis informing conclusions.
Task 5 Consultation	Undertaken further consultation, if required.

3 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 TASK 1: SCOPING AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GATHERING

3.1.1 As noted in Section 2 of this report, the following additional information is considered pertinent to the assessment.

FURTHER SITE INFORMATION

3.1.2 This information has been extracted from the Civils method statement. No detailed method statement is yet available for the air works phase, or indeed the phase 2 access information. Expected parameters for both phases are proposed here for the purposes of this assessment. Should the requirements be materially different to that set out within the HRA then a change to the HRA will need to be agreed upon so as to ensure the works are legally compliant.

Civils Phase

Access

3.1.3 Works on the station tower will be accessed via the main Arqiva access route (east track). The current vehicles selected are suitable for access via this route and can be escorted up by Arqiva site management to reduce risks on the road. The hair pin bend will require some improvements works to the inner corner. The inner 1.5m of the bend would benefit from new tarmac to minimise risk of vehicles getting stuck on the apex and reduce the chance of damaging the corner further.

3.1.4 The inner section of road will have the soil excavated with a machine and replaced with a layer of barrier material, type one stone and then 2 layers of tarmac to make level with the current road surface. All works should take 2 days and follow full method statement provided by the civil engineering contractor.



Figure 2: Site Access and requirement for road improvement



3.1.5 The proposed access route is shown in Figures 3 & 4 below.

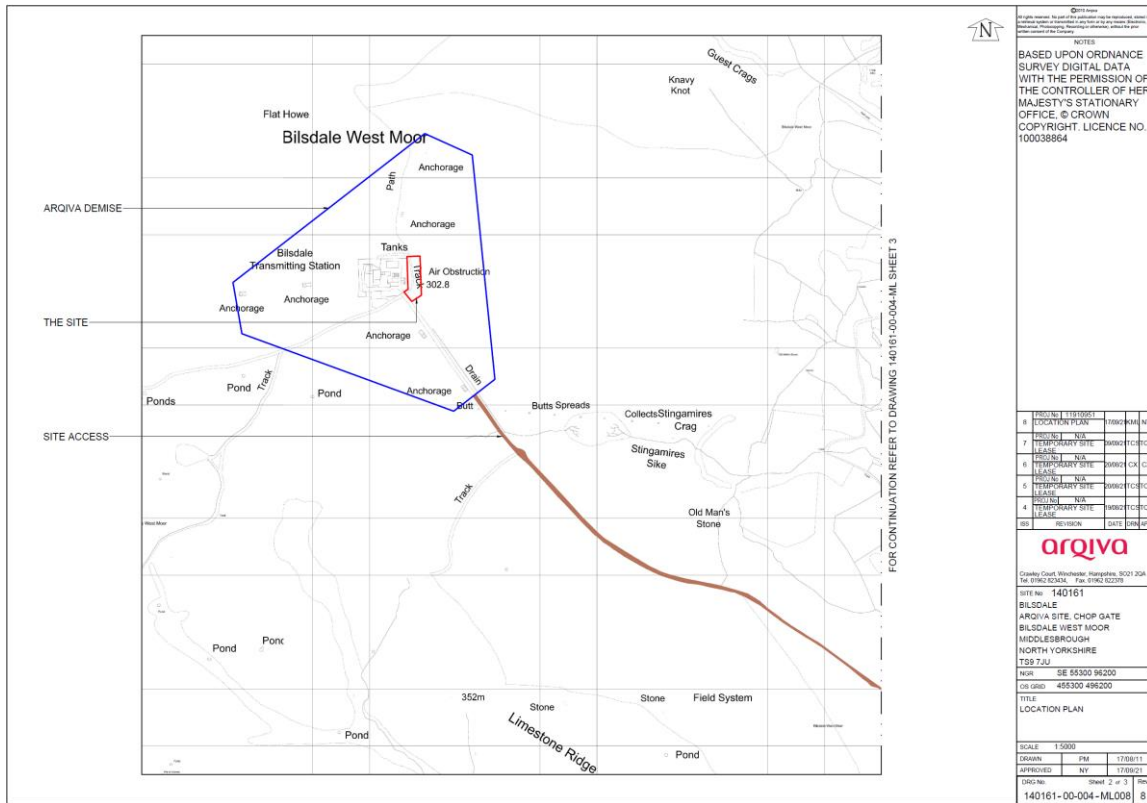


Figure 3 – Access route proposed. Note: Access route lies entirely within the SAC/SPA boundary.

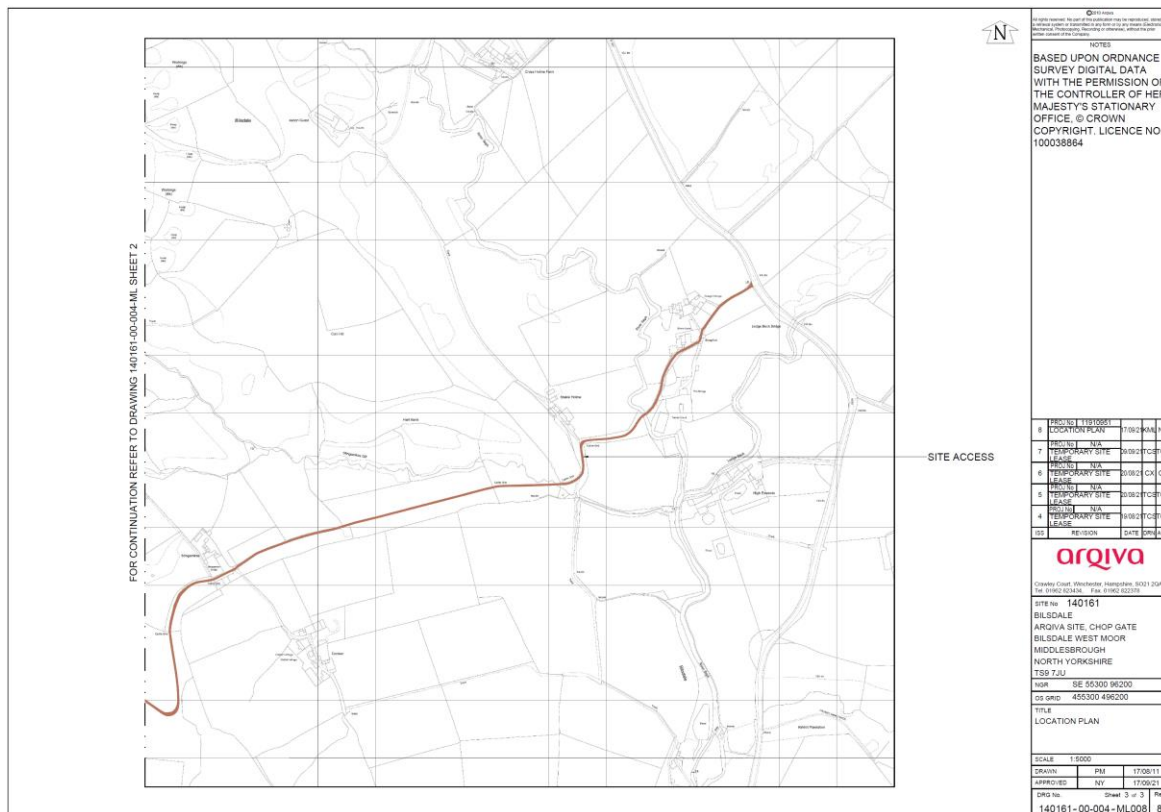


Figure 4: Access route proposed. Note that the majority of route shown in this plan (excepting the hairpin bend at the far west of the plan) lies beyond the SAC/SPA boundary.



Site set up

3.1.6 The site will require a hardstanding area to the east of the main compound to house welfare, materials and plant during the project. This area will also be used to build the individual steel sections into complete panels prior to lifting by the crane which will also be located in this location. This will also provide the access to the location of the tower and will have some of the ground based technical equipment containers located on it once the tower is complete. The hard standing will be created following discussion with the ecologists to agree what protected species, flora and fauna must be removed initially, this can then be carried out by an approved representative, as per the temporary quarry mast solution. The ground will then be prepared by scraping back and removing the top layer of soil to a depth of approx. 200mm to a firm ground strata using a 13T Excavator. The removed soil will be stockpiled to the side for future landscaping and a protective barrier polythene mat will be placed between the soil and the layers of approved stone. The stone will be delivered directly to the area in 12T loads and placed using a combination of 6T dumpers and the excavator. Finally the stone will be levelled and compacted to create a firm level surface which is safe for access and the construction work.

Plant

3.1.7 The plant to be used on site for the civil works will be as follows:

- 13T Tracked Excavator
- 2x 6T dumpers
- Bomag 180 Roller

Deliveries

3.1.8 There will also be deliveries to the site and this will consist of:

CIVILS PHASE

- Approx. 70 concrete wagons
- Approx. 60 tipper wagons for stone delivery (12T load)
- Approx. 25 Muck away wagons (12T load)
- Approx. 15 other deliveries (mast base frame, rebar, shutters, plant, welfare, heras fencing, other materials)

AIR WORKS PHASE

- 30 Lorry Deliveries of materials (tower and antennas)
- 10 container and gantry lorry deliveries

Excavation

3.1.9 Initially, a ground investigation will take place using a cable percussive ground rig to bore a hole to approximately 5m depth to confirm the depth of strata which will achieve the required safe bearing capacity.

3.1.10 The ground will be prepared for the location of the foundation. The works will consist of removing any protected habitat and species from the area, to follow ecologist guidance. Once removed the excavator will work from the North face to minimise movement off the hardstanding and excavate to the agreed depth. The dumpers will then be used to transport the soil to a designated area for disposal or future use depending on ecological decision. The excavation will be made as tight as possible to limit any over reaching into surrounding areas but will provide enough space to install all shuttering rebar.



- 3.1.11 Following excavation a blinding layer of concrete will be cast up to a level 1.75m below ground for the foundation to be constructed onto. The concrete will be brought to site in delivery wagons and discharged directly into the excavation and/or into the bucket of the excavator for placement on the north side.

Shuttering

- 3.1.12 Shuttering will be PERI Shuttering which is pre-constructed panels secured together in the excavation using steel beams. Full details will be in the Method Statement which will be provided by the civils contractor. All materials will be brought to site and assembled on the hard standing area and lifted into the excavation by the excavator.
- 3.1.13 Any waste material will be disposed of in the covered skip.

Concrete pour

- 3.1.14 Concrete will be transported to site in standard concrete wagons however these will carry 2 cubic metres less than their full capacity to reduce any potential damage on the access track, prevent material loss on the steeper sections of track and reduce loading on the bridge at the lower end of the track. This will require approximately 45 wagons and will be managed on one long day to avoid a construction joint in the concrete base. Vehicle access onto the moor at this time may be limited and Arqiva will have access controls at the moor and on the track at its base.
- 3.1.15 Once at the tower base location, the concrete wagon will discharge into a concrete pump which will place the concrete into the foundation as required avoiding segregation of the concrete and aggregate material.

Completion (of Civils phase)

- 3.1.16 On completion of the construction area, the hardstanding area will be re-levelled and compacted as necessary and the stockpiled topsoil used to dress any edges or damaged corners etc. All plant, equipment and excess materials will be removed from site.

Phase 2 Access

- 3.1.17 Detailed access arrangements for the next phase of work needs to be established. For the purposes of this assessment it is assumed that access will remain via the eastern track. Further modification may be necessary so as to be able to accommodate the heavier equipment likely to be associated with later phases of construction, in particular the delivery of sections of the tower and access of the site by the crane.
- 3.1.18 The primary driver behind identification of access is understood to be access constraints outside of the designated site, including narrow access roads and weight limits on bridges. Work is ongoing to resolve or provide engineering solutions for these issues.
- 3.1.19 It is understood that the LPA have been invited to make a condition of the planning permission for the tower the requirement for further details pursuant to phase 2. *'Prior to commencement of works associated with the phase 2 access arrangements, further details of the phase 2 access arrangements, including vehicular requirements and anticipated movements, alongside any required updated impact assessment, shall be provided to the Local Planning Authority and any required measures to ensure acceptable impacts shall be provided.'* The intention is for further information to be provided prior to commencement of any work associated with phase 2. Where this work requires additional environmental impact assessment or habitats regulation assessment this would accompany the submission of phase 2 information.



Air Works

3.1.20 Again, the detail of air work requirements will be finalised as a contractor is appointed. However it is understood that construction of the main tower will principally be by a 70T crane during the lower phases of the tower build and with later phases of construction utilising a helicopter to manoeuvre the tower sections into position.

Further Details on Existing Use/Land Management of Area

3.1.21 The area proposed for the temporary tower lies within an active grouse shooting estate which is subject to regular management. This includes regular burning of the heather to promote new growth which is more palatable and more nutritious to birds such as grouse. The estate manages the burns to create a mosaic of habitats and therefore provide a mixture of areas suitable for feeding, breeding and cover in close proximity of one another. This practice is noted by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust to be beneficial not only to grouse but also other moorland birds.

3.1.22 The practices of moorland management and the regular shoots within the area result in trampling pressure upon the moorland within the area, although such activity is typically spread over a wider area and occurs relatively infrequently.

3.2 TASK 2: ASSESSING THE IMPACTS – APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.2.1 This section considers in more detail where the impacts identified are likely to have a significant effect on site integrity. This assessment focuses on the potential of the proposal to have impacts alone as the potential for in-combination effects was dismissed at the screening stage. Each of the impacts identified within the screening stage is presented below:

Potential for damage and therefore loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat

3.2.2 The areas affected by the proposed construction measures approximately 0.2ha of habitat within the SAC and SPA. The habitat within this area constitutes a mix of grassland, access tracks, heather in poor condition (i.e. subject to recent burn) and more mature stands of heather. This can be reviewed in the aerial photograph of the working area provided in Figure 5 below:

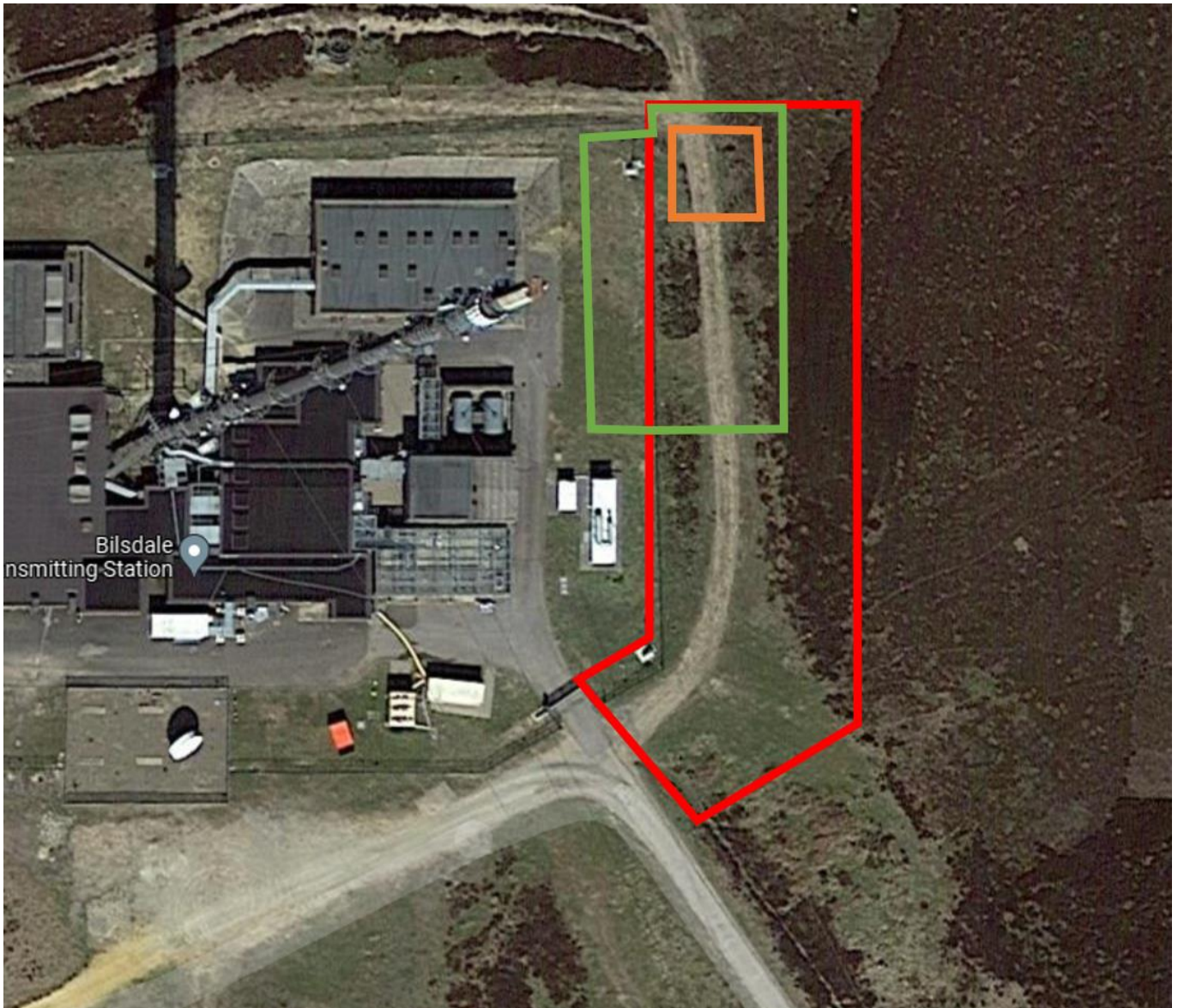


Figure 5: Temporary Station Tower Location overlaid onto aerial photograph to show habitat affected.

- 3.2.3 Prior to any construction work proceeding all heather habitat will be subject to a careful fingertip inspection to confirm the absence of ecological constraint before the area is cleared using strimmers. Cut brush will be raked and used to create a long windrow at the edge of the clearance area.
- 3.2.4 Impacts are anticipated to be temporary albeit the ground impacts within the extent of area affected are considered to be very significant. The construction of the staging area will entail removal of all soils, the laying of a suitable membrane and then the laying and compacting of type 1 aggregate to provide a stable and level working area and construction compound.
- 3.2.5 The tower foundation area will be smaller but will require very significant excavation, with all topsoil and considerable subsoil removing.
- 3.2.6 The loss of habitat from both of the above areas will be complete, albeit with the intention of reinstating habitat in the area upon completion of construction work.



3.2.7 Mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the impact of the damage and remedial measures proposed to repair the damage caused to the Site once the tower has been removed.

3.2.8 Ultimately the area affected by the construction of the new tower is anticipated to be approximately 0.2ha which constitutes approx. 0.00045% of the total extent of the Site. Although the damage to soils and complete loss of habitat over at least one growing season means that the adverse effect of this work is acknowledged, it is not considered likely to result in adverse effects upon the integrity of the Site as a whole given the very limited amount of land involved and the temporary nature of the impacts over the life of the permission.

Trampling of vegetation and soil compaction by working party & plant

3.2.9 Significant additional trampling of habitats associated with the SAC are not anticipated as the great majority of the work will be entirely contained within the cleared areas (staging area and foundation area). The area immediately surrounding the new foundation may be subject to additional trampling impacts. Suitable ground protection will be installed around the foundation area to protect any further damage or deterioration of habitats beyond the working area.

3.2.10 It should be noted that heathland is relatively resilient to trampling, and disturbance by livestock is typically considered a feature of upland heaths. Regular disturbance of heathland habitat is integral to the functioning of heathlands. It is considered highly unlikely, given the highly localised areas worked on over a short min 6 – max 30 day period, that trampling would have material adverse effects upon the qualifying habitats or the integrity of the wider North York Moors SAC. Nevertheless careful steps will be implemented to manage/minimise the risk and impacts of trampling and ensure the effective restoration of any significant damage caused.

Potential impacts of concrete and other materials on soil and surrounding habitat quality

3.2.11 Concrete is typically alkaline in chemical composition and therefore the pouring of a substantial volume of concrete into the environment risks changing the acidic nature of the surrounding heathland habitat. Concrete will not however at any point be in direct contact with surrounding soils. Concrete will be laid onto a flat bed of inert stone material and the concrete would be poured within shuttering. The intention would be to surround this shuttering with inert aggregate to protect the surrounding soils from alkalinisation of the surrounding acidic soils.

3.2.12 However, where such measures fail or where the alkalinity of the concrete used does have an impact upon surrounding soils it is likely there may be a change in the floristic makeup of the heathland and grasslands surrounding, with the improved success of base tolerant moorland plant species, in particular grasses over the acid specialists such as heather.

Potential fuel spillage and localised air quality impacts from use of plant as part of dismantling works.

3.2.13 The use of plant and vehicles during various construction phases brings with it a small risk of fuel spillages. The use of plant will also result in the release of small amounts of additional pollution associated with the operation of the plant as well as the multiple trips anticipated to be required as part of the delivery of concrete, stone, and the Station tower structure and the removal of soils.

3.2.14 Ultimately although the number of vehicle movements are high the trips will be spaced out over an extended period with relatively few trips being completed each day.



- 3.2.15 It is considered unlikely that the vehicular movements associated with the construction will have significant long-term or permanent damage or result in critical thresholds for pollutants to be exceeded.
- 3.2.16 Modelling of the air quality impacts of vehicle movements has not been completed due to the urgency of the works.
- 3.2.17 Appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure that fuel spillages do not occur and that there are no adverse effects upon the Site.

Potential for disturbance or loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat during process which may disturb or displace nesting birds or dependent young and damage nests.

- 3.2.18 Timing of the works is such that it will avoid the key breeding season for the qualifying species associated with the SPA. There may nevertheless be juvenile and adults remaining present within the environment, including in particular golden plover (SPA qualifying species) but also potentially red grouse and curlew.
- 3.2.19 Disturbance during installation is considered likely where species associated with the SPA are in proximity. These might occur as a result of trampling/general operative activity on the construction area, the use of vehicles to bring in equipment and machinery and the noise and vibration resulting from the construction of the tower. Such impacts will be temporary and anticipated to be highly localised.
- 3.2.20 All disturbance associated with the construction is anticipated to be short term.
- 3.2.21 During the operation of the tower few effects of disturbance are anticipated, beyond the regular visits to monitor and maintain the tower. These visits will be broadly consistent with the monitoring schedule for the existing tower (new defunct) and so no additional impacts are anticipated.

Potential chemical spillages and ingestion by birds, or damage to supporting habitat features.

- 3.2.22 Chemical use during the construction process will be limited to the areas of cleared habitats such as the staging area and the foundation area. As these areas will be highly modified and the intention is to remove these areas and reinstate nature habitat upon completion of the works using soils removed from site for the duration of construction, there is considered to be very little risk of ingestion of materials/chemicals used during the construction or operation of the tower.

Soil and vegetation compaction along transport/ access routes

- 3.2.23 All access routes to and from the site will be via the existing eastern access tracks. The track is metalled and broadly in good condition. The habitat within these tracks does not constitute a qualifying feature of the SAC and the habitat within the tracks is of negligible importance to the qualifying features of the Site.
- 3.2.24 Modification of the access track will be required as described in 3.1. The remedial works are relatively modest with approximately 40m² of grassland habitat affected. As can be seen from the photographs provided this habitat is not one associated with qualifying features of the SAC, comprising closely grazed (rabbit grazed) grassland. The removal of grassland and associated soils and then the laying of inter type 1 stone and two layers or tarmac above that will have only very limited impact upon the SAC.
- 3.2.25 It is not anticipated that this remedial work will necessitate any additional mitigation and it is not anticipated that the scale of improvement work necessary has any risk of adverse effects on the integrity of the site.



3.3 TASK 3: DEVELOPING MITIGATION MEASURES (INCLUDING INITIAL AVOIDANCE)

3.3.1 Mitigation measures which are part of the works will be put in place to ensure there is no adverse effects on the integrity of the Site. These are set out below:

Mitigation for damage and therefore loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat

3.3.2 Damage caused during the construction process will occur over an area of 0.17ha. This impact will be temporary with the staging area and foundation removed upon completion of the works. It is therefore anticipated that the damage will be limited to a 36month period (allowing for construction/operation and decommissioning).

3.3.3 Soils area to be separated and stored suitably to ensure that they can be brought back onto site after removal of the stones and concrete associated with the temporary tower and the ground made up. Once the subsoils and topsoils have been replaced and suitably compacted the area would be seeded with heather seed collected in the late October – November period 2022. Any brash generated during the site clearance operations will be respread back over the reinstated ground so as to provide a sheltered microclimate and promote new heather growth. Consideration will be given to plug planting into the area by mature heather plants carefully translocated from adjacent heathland areas. The planting of mature plants in the area will provide immediate structural diversity into the reinstated area.

3.3.4 Post restoration monitoring inspections of the remediated areas will be completed in Spring 2022, Autumn 2022 and Spring 2023. During each monitoring inspection the success of heather establishment will be reviewed and if considered necessary conservation led management of the areas completed. This may involve removal of grasses and other undesirable species, further remedial works to undo compaction, translocation of turves or plug planting of individual heather plants collected from adjacent habitat.

3.3.5 It is considered that with the above process the temporary damage to the Site can be fully repaired. The temporary loss of habitat will however be over an extended, albeit temporary, period of time during the lifespan of the development. Alongside the anticipated forthcoming planning application for a permanent replacement mast in due course, options are being developed for a strategic compensation measure to ensure a long-overall term legacy benefit is secured for the North York Moors which will take account of the total adverse effect on habitat occasioned by the required temporary mast developments and felling of the existing mast prior to the installation of the permanent mast replacement. This strategy will be developed over the next few months, in consultation with the Local Planning Authority.

3.3.6 Monitoring inspections are proposed for Spring 2023, Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 to consider the success of the habitat reinstatement work and to identify if necessary further remedial measures are required. Where necessary conservation management (such as the removal of undesired species such as grasses) will be completed during the monitoring visit to promote the growth of heather within the restored area.

Mitigation for Trampling of vegetation and soil compaction by working party & plant

3.3.7 The use of the ground protection mats around the foundation will help to manage the potential compaction by working party and plant.

3.3.8 Some additional trampling of other areas as part of remediation might be anticipated but it is not anticipated that this will necessitate remediation. However this will be assessed by the ECOW during construction, operation and post-removal of the tower so that requirement for remedial measures can be duly incorporated.



Additional remedial measures might be loosening soils to undo compaction and cutting damaged and broken vegetation to promote new growth in Spring 2023.

- 3.3.9 Monitoring inspections are proposed for Spring 2023, Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 to assess the working areas affected by trampling will be monitored to assess identify any persistent impacts associated with trampling and if necessary implement further remedial measures.

Mitigating impacts of concrete and other materials on soil and surrounding habitat quality

- 3.3.10 The design of the area in which concrete it to be used is specifically designed to minimise the risks of alkalinisation of surrounding habitat. The long-term intention to remove the concrete installed for the foundation will ensure that the effects of concrete on the surrounding environment will be limited in duration.
- 3.3.11 After remediation of the site has been completed the condition of surrounding heather will be closely monitored. Options for remediating an increase in pH include the addition of acid rich substrates such as sulfur to the ground to counteract the effects of the concrete (and the calcium carbonate leaching from the material). It is not anticipated, given the duration of use of the concrete, and given the particular concrete mix proposed for the site which is designed to high standards and resistant to freeze/thaw cycles and considered less likely to leach into the surrounding environment.

Mitigation for fuel spillage and localised air quality impacts from use of plant as part of dismantling works.

- 3.3.12 The risks of adverse impacts associated with fuel spillage will be mitigated in a number of ways. As per the site RAMS all vehicles will carry spill kits and drip trays will be used when vehicles are parked within the Site overnight (including within the quarry area). Fuelling will only take place within the site compound/staging area will comprise clean stone.
- 3.3.13 All site staff will be briefed about the environmental sensitivity of the site and fully informed on the correct steps to be adopted should an accidental spillage occur.
- 3.3.14 Harm as a result of fuel spillages is considered to be highly unlikely. With the appropriate control measures in place and briefings given to site staff, this risk is minimised. Whilst such measures cannot fully eliminate potential for accidents to occur such events are considered reasonably unlikely.

Mitigation for disturbance or loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat during process which may disturb or displace nesting birds or dependent young and damage nests.

- 3.3.15 Whilst some disturbance is considered inevitable the timing of the principal construction work is such that the potential for significant long-term adverse impacts upon the favourable conservation status of qualifying species is not anticipated.
- 3.3.16 Construction works will take place between September December and as such avoid nesting periods. The risk of damage to active nests can be dismissed. Juvenile birds may be present within the area but it is not anticipated that any dependent young will be present on the site.
- 3.3.17 The use of cranes and in particular helicopters during the air works phase may displace birds from the local area although such works are likely to be extremely limited in duration and so potential for significant or long-term adverse effects are negligible.



- 3.3.18 All qualifying species (golden plover and merlin) (and other species known to be present within the moorland – grouse and curlew) are likely to be temporarily disturbed and displaced by the works, however such displacement will be temporary.
- 3.3.19 It is not anticipated that the operation of the tower would result in any significant disturbance of birds, certainly no greater level of disturbance than might occur during the operation and maintenance of the existing tower (now defunct).
- 3.3.20 The precise timeframe for the removal/dismantling of the temporary tower and removal of the stone and concrete associated with the structure is as yet unknown. So as to ensure impacts of disturbance upon birds associated with the SPA are avoided it is suggested that works to dismantle the tower are restricted between March and August (inclusive) unless appropriate measures are undertaken and assessed as being acceptable at the time. In the event clearance during this period was essential further assessment by an updated Habitats Regulation Assessment would be required.

Potential chemical spillages and ingestion by birds, or damage to supporting habitat features.

- 3.3.21 A suitable COSHH assessment has already been completed for all chemicals and fuels required for the site. These substances will be stored in suitable locations and as identified above suitable measures will be in place to minimise the risks of fuel spillages and ensure that in the event of an accident damage is contained and appropriate remedial work complete. No further mitigation measures are considered necessary.

Soil and vegetation compaction along transport/ access routes

- 3.3.22 The minor modification to the access track is considered to be insignificant in terms of effects on the integrity of the SAC and SPA, principally because the area affected is extremely small but also because the habitats present within this area are not associated with the habitats of the SAC or likely to be suitable to birds associated with the SPA.
- 3.3.23 Arqiva is seeking to use the existing eastern trackway to minimise on requirement for improvement or improvement of other access tracks to the moorland which might result in additional compaction or hydrological impacts.
- 3.3.24 Phase 2 access is currently assumed to be the same as for Phase 1 works. In the event the Phase 2 access requires any modification of habitat within the SAC or SPA then further assessment via a revised Habitats Regulation Assessment would be required.

In-Combination Effects

- 3.3.25 The principal in-combination effects of this project with the construction of the temporary mast, construction of the Station tower and ultimately construction of the main tower will be one of increased levels (or duration) of disturbance. The effects of disturbance will be more significant the longer the work progresses. In practice due to the urgency of completing each project the works, particularly on the initial three projects will take place broadly concurrently. This therefore reduces, as far as possible the cumulative impacts of disturbance. As the works are taking place at a time of year when the birds associated with the SPA are non-breeding and therefore least susceptible to disturbance the delivery of the projects concurrently and within a short space of time is considered to be the best approach to minimising the effects of disturbance upon the qualifying species of the SPA.



3.3.26 Some in-combination effects associated with habitat loss might occur although given that the three immediate projects constitute only temporary habitat loss with appropriate mitigation and remediation included within the design to ensure that there is no permanent loss or habitat within the SAC is required. That means that the long-term effects of the proposed projects on the qualifying habitats are considered to be negligible and not give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of the European site.

3.3.27 There are likely to be some short term adverse effects and mitigation and remedial measures are proposed and a monitoring and conservation led management approach is proposed to help manage this. A strategic compensation strategy is also currently being explored as set out above and will be secured as part of the permanent mast replacement.

3.4 TASK 4: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.4.1 A small number of potential adverse impacts have been identified. Due to the nature of the projects these are all considered to be short-term and ultimately reversible impacts.

3.4.2 The area over which impacts are likely to occur is extremely limited with direct temporary loss to the European dry heath which is a qualifying habitat of the Site (SAC) limited in extent to approximately 0.2Ha.

3.4.3 Appropriate mitigation and remedial measures have been proposed for temporary loss and damage to the dry heaths resulting from the construction of the staging area and new tower foundation. These measures will ensure that there will be no long-term impacts upon the habitats within the moorland, although given the large extent of habitat affected and the duration over which the loss will occur (approx. 36months) there will be some short-term adverse effects. The success of restoration of dry heath habitat upon completion of construction will be verified through the monitoring programme proposed for the area. The monitoring programme also presents the opportunity to implement remedial measures should the anticipated recovery of European dry heath not occur.

3.4.4 The timing of works is key to minimising potential impacts associated with disturbance. Given that the construction is due to be completed immediately this limits potential for disturbance and the timing of the works ensures that there is no risk of damage to nests or effects on dependent young. Removal of the temporary tower should be restricted and only completed between September and February (inclusive) so as to ensure the approach of avoiding impacts is adhered to.

3.5 TASK 5: CONSULTATION

3.5.1 This report is being made available for consultation.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The Project, the construction of a new temporary transmission tower has the potential to result in a number of potential impacts upon the North York Moors SAC and SPA. The potential for impacts draws from the screening assessment completed for the temporary transmission tower.:

- *Potential for damage and therefore loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat*
- *Trampling of vegetation and soil compaction by working party & plant*
- *Potential impacts of concrete and other materials on soil and surrounding habitat quality*



- *Potential fuel spillage and localised air quality impacts from use of plant and transportation to and from site;*
- *Potential for disturbance or loss of extent of qualifying natural habitat during process which may disturb or displace nesting birds or dependent young and damage nests.*
- *Potential chemical spillages and ingestion by birds, or damage to supporting habitat features.*
- *Soil and vegetation compaction along transport/ access routes*

4.1.2 Appropriate mitigation and remedial measures are proposed to ensure that the construction of the new tower within the European site results in minimal impact upon the European dry heaths. The loss of 0.17ha of habitat during the duration of the development will have short-term adverse effects but will not adversely affect site integrity given the small area of land involved and the temporary nature of the impacts over the life of the permission. The area affected is very small in comparison with the total site area of the SAC and SPA.

4.1.3 The temporary loss and damage to the Sites resulting from the project are considered to result in no adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites.

4.1.4 Further mitigation measures, such as the management of fuels by appropriate management plans and the appropriate briefing and training to site staff will minimise the risks of adverse effects as far as is possible.

4.1.5 Some uncertainty exists at this stage as to the method of construction for the 'air works' phase of work. Uncertainty also exists associated with the stage 2 access. In the event these works are likely to result in any significant additional impacts beyond those described within this assessment an amended habitats regulation assessment would be presented for further consideration to ensure that impacts, effects and requirement for mitigation are fully considered.

4.1.6 Finally monitoring of the site is proposed by an ecological clerk of works, during construction, during operation, during decommissioning and during the recovery phase. This ensures that opportunities to identify and remediate any adverse impacts can be realised.



APPENDIX A – NORTH YORK MOORS STANDARD DATA FORM

STANDARD DATA FORM for sites within the 'UK national site network of European sites'

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are classified and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under:

- the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in England and Wales (including the adjacent territorial sea) and to a limited extent in Scotland (reserved matters) and Northern Ireland (excepted matters);
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) in Scotland;
- the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland; and
- the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) in the UK offshore area.

Each SAC or SPA (forming part of the UK national site network of European sites) has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The information provided here generally follows the same documenting format for SACs and SPAs, as set out in the [Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011 \(2011/484/EU\)](#).

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

More general information on SPAs and SACs in the UK is available from the [SPA homepage](#) and [SAC homepage](#) on the JNCC website. These webpages also provide links to Standard Data Forms for all SAC and SPA sites in the UK.

<https://jncc.gov.uk/>



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE UK0030228
SITENAME North York Moors

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- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS AND RELATION WITH CORINE BIOTOPES](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code UK0030228	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

North York Moors

1.4 First Compilation date 2001-03	1.5 Update date 2015-12
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough
PE1 1JY
Email:

Date site proposed as SCI: 2001-03
Date site confirmed as SCI: 2004-12
Date site designated as SAC: 2005-04

National legal reference of SAC designation:

Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

-0.904166667

Latitude

54.40916667

2.2 Area [ha]:

44053.29

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

UKC1	Tees Valley and Durham
UKE2	North Yorkshire

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
4010			8163.07	0	G	A	C	B	A
4030			24057.5	0	G	B	B	B	A
7130	X		524.23	0	G	C	C	B	C

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N19	1.0
N08	73.0
N09	15.0
N23	1.0
N10	2.0
N17	1.0
N16	2.0
N07	4.0
N06	1.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: nutrient-poor,acidic,sandstone,limestone,peat 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: upland,hilly

4.2 Quality and importance

Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Blanket bogs for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	K04		I
H	I01		B
H	H04		B
H	J01		I
H	M01		B

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	B02		I
H	A02		I
H	A04		I
H	B06		I
H	A03		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324>

http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0				

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, but in preparation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (SPA) STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below generally follow those explained in the [official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form](#) (also referencing the relevant page number).

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	SPA (classified Special Protection Area)	53
B	cSAC, SCI or SAC (candidate Special Area of Conservation, Site of Community Importance, designated Special Area of Conservation)	53
C	SPA area/boundary is the same as the cSAC/SCI/SAC i.e. a co-classified/designated site (Note: this situation only occurs in Gibraltar)	53

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)	57
2160	Dunes with <i>Hippophya rhamnoides</i>	57
2170	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Habitat representativity (abbreviated to 'Representativity' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent representativity	57
B	Good representativity	57
C	Significant representativity	57
D	Non-significant presence representativity	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	58
B	> 2%-15%	58
C	≤ 2%	58

3.1 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Conservation' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global assessment (abbreviated to 'Global' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	> 15%-100%	62
B	> 2%-15%	62
C	≤ 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Degree of conservation (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Other species – essentially covers bird assemblage types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non-breeding waterbird assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code

BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code
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4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (GB)	67
UK05	Marine Conservation Zone	67
UK06	Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area	67
UK86	Special Area (Channel Islands)	67
UK98	Area of Special Scientific Interest (NI)	67
IN00	Ramsar Convention site	67
IN08	Special Protection Area	67
IN09	Special Area of Conservation	67

Landscape and Visual Effects

Pegasus Group have an in-house team of Landscape Architects who are highly experienced in the assessment of tall structures in the landscape. Our team, based in the Leeds Office of the Group, are also fully familiar with the landscape of North Yorkshire, including the landscape in and around the North York Moors National Park. The team have considered the proposed development and have provided the following analysis.

It is acknowledged that the proposed 80m mast is located within an elevated part of the National Park and would be visible from much of the surrounding landscape. However, what is important to recognise is that the current mast, which is 310m and a more substantial structure than the lattice structure now proposed, is to be removed prior to construction of the new mast. As such, there would be a net reduction in landscape and visual effects which would arise when compared with the existing impact brought about by the current mast when compared with that brought about by the proposed 80m mast. Further, planning permission is sought for a temporary 3 year period for the proposed 80m mast meaning that any effects associated would be only temporary.

The location of the proposed mast is clearly one which is sensitive in nature in landscape and visual terms. However, the existing 310m mast is one which is an established element of the character of this part of the landscape and this is acknowledged through the reference to the mast in the Natural England National Character Area Profile for the North York Moors and Cleveland Hills (Area 25) (page 9):

“Large structures have a notable impact on the landscape, especially the chimney of the potash works at Boulby, the towering pyramid of the Ministry of Defence installation at Fylingdales, and the transmission mast at Bilsdale”

In turn, the existing mast is also referenced within the North York Moors National Park Landscape Character Assessment (page 11):

“More recent structures also have a notable impact on the landscape, including: the chimney of the potash works at Boulby; the towering pyramid of the MOD installation at Fylingdales, which has now replaced the earlier ‘golfballs’ familiar to many people, the transmission mast at Bilsdale; and large caravan parks on the cliff tops”

It is acknowledged that the special qualities of the North York Moors National Park, as set out in the North York Moors National Park Management Plan (first review 2016) (page 8), include ‘Great diversity of landscape’ and the ‘Sudden dramatic contrasts associated with this’ as well as the ‘Wide sweeps of open heather moorland’. The proposed mast would be the type of development which might have the potential to bring about landscape and visual effects that could impact upon these special qualities. However, as noted above, in this case the proposed development is coming forward following the removal of the existing more substantial 310m mast. As such, there would be a net reduction in landscape and visual effects which would arise when compared with the existing mast and therefore no new impact on the special qualities of the National Park.

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Bilsdale 80.00m Station Tower

Method Statement

Document Summary			
Author			
Name	John Lohoar	Position	Programme Manager
Signature		Date	17/09/21
Reviewer (if applicable)			
Name		Position	
Signature		Date	

Amendment Record			
Revision Number	Reason for Amendment	Date	Amender

Site Details					
Site Ref	140161	Site Name	Bilsdale	Site owner	Arqiva Ltd
Address	Bilsdale Transmitting Site Arqiva Ltd Chop Gate, West Moor Helmsley North Yorkshire TS9 7JU Directions from nearest major road From Helmsley take the B1257 towards Stokesley. Turn left towards Stable Holme, which is approximately 9 miles until you reach the turn off for the site. Access is via private lane belonging to The Grange (Near river bridge).				
Post code / NGR / Lat-Long	TS9 7JU				
Start date	TBA	End date	TBA	No of Days construction	TBA

Key Personnel	Organisation	Names and contact details
CDM Client/PM	Arqiva Ltd	John Lohoar:
Principal Designer	Arqiva Ltd	Adam Needs:
Designer 1	Arqiva Ltd	Adam Needs
Designer 2		
Principal Contractor		TBA
Contractor 1		TBA
Contractor 2		
Contact at location		TBA
Supervisor on site	Arqiva Ltd	TBA
SHE Contact	Arqiva Ltd	Elly Smith-:
Site Personnel		Role
TBA		TBA

Clients Health and Safety aims and expectations for the project

- Workers will be involved in Safety and Health management decisions on site
- Workers will cooperate with each other on site
- Workers will work in a manner which is considerate to the neighbours and site providers operations
- Workers will report any issues on site which could affect the safety or health of any person

Coordination and cooperation and arrangements for involving workers

Progress meetings	Weekly or as dictated by specific works on site
Management of design changes	Contractor to have direct contact with CDM Client and Principle designer should any changes to the design be required.
Induction arrangements	Site Manager of the works
toolbox talks	Site specific RA covered, Mandatory PPE, all details covered in the RAMS and BOW 109 Arqiva SHE rules
Involving workers in SHE management	Contact Elly Smith: 07785 528511. Email: Elly.Smith@arqiva.com

Site rules



SHE Rules for Contra



IM2943.pdf

Preventing unauthorised access

How will work area be secured & access restricted?

Access will be controlled by Service now System. For the duration of the works and approval will need sought from the Principle Contractor Site Manager before entering site plus a full induction will be required.
Signage will be placed in strategic positions around the site, the gate will be locked during the working day with contact details or 2-way radio to contact the site manager

Will a drop zone be required (if so state size, method of controlling etc)?

No. The build area to be fenced of with Haras Fencing to prevent unauthorised access to the site.

Welfare Facilities

State how the following welfare facilities will be provided

Toilets	Welfare Unit on site
Washing Facilities	Welfare Unit on site
Rest/Eating Areas	Welfare Unit on site
Drinking Water	Welfare Unit on site
Areas for changing & Storing Clothes	Welfare Unit on site

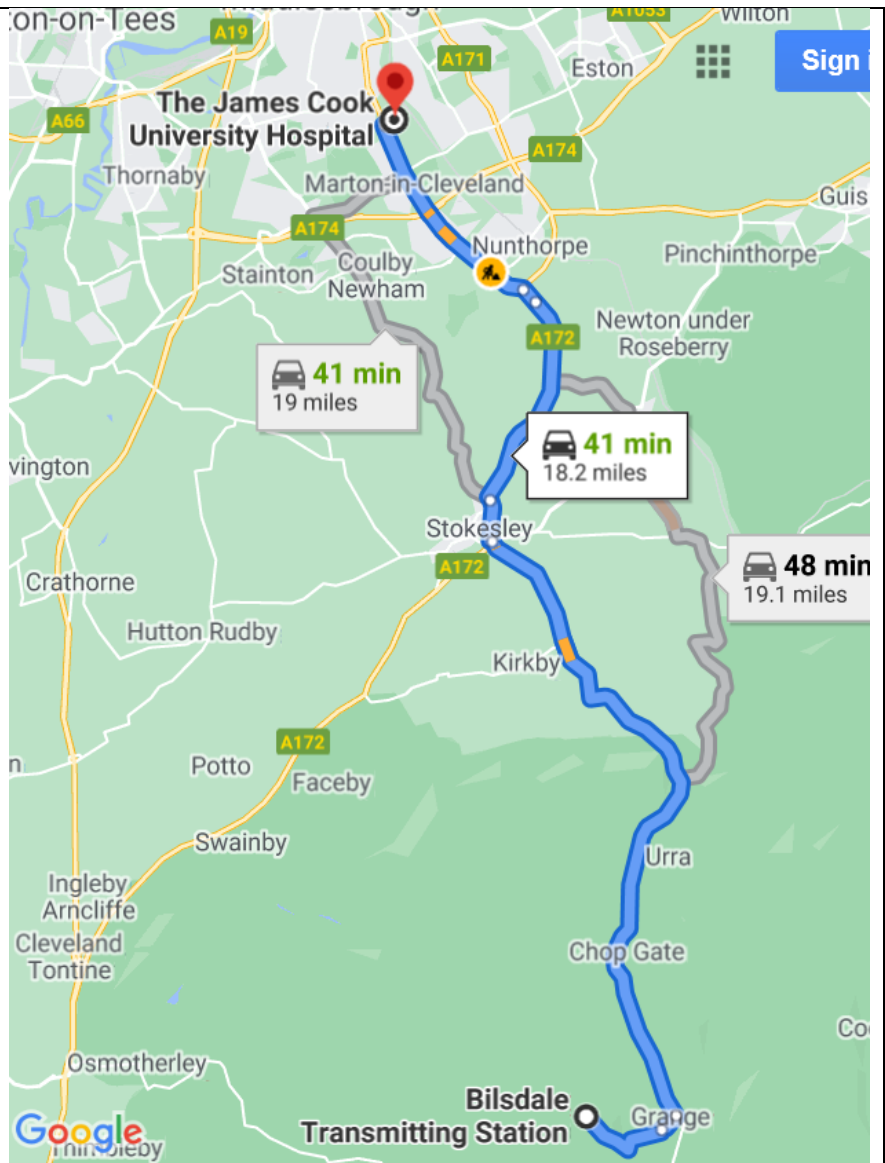
Emergency Procedures

First aid provision on site

All Personnel on site to trained in First Aid Trained. First Aid kits available withing the Site Welfare, Site Office and vehicles.

Address of nearest hospital (attach map and directions)

The James Cook University Hospital
Tel: 01642 850850
Address: Marton Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS4 3BW
Website: <https://www.southtees.nhs.uk/>
Map





Directions

41 min (18.2 miles)



via B1257 and A172

Fastest route, the usual traffic

⚠ This route has restricted usage or includes private roads.

Bilsdale Transmitting Station

Unnamed Road, TS9, Middlesbrough

- > Continue to B1257
8 min (1.6 mi)
- > Follow B1257 and A172 to Middlesbrough
30 min (16.3 mi)
- > Drive to your destination
2 min (0.2 mi)

The James Cook University Hospital

Marton Rd, Middlesbrough TS4 3BW

Fire fighting and evacuation arrangements

Fire extinguishers are available within the site Compound, Site Welfare and Offices set up on Site. In case of a fire emergency services to be called on 999 and the area evacuated. Muster point is next to the site entrance gate.

Spill clean-up arrangements (if chemicals, oil, diesel etc. used)

Spill kits will be on site and stored where practicable near all machinery on site and readily available.

Reporting accidents

All accidents, incidents and near misses must be reported to the Arqiva Accident Report Line 01926 416650

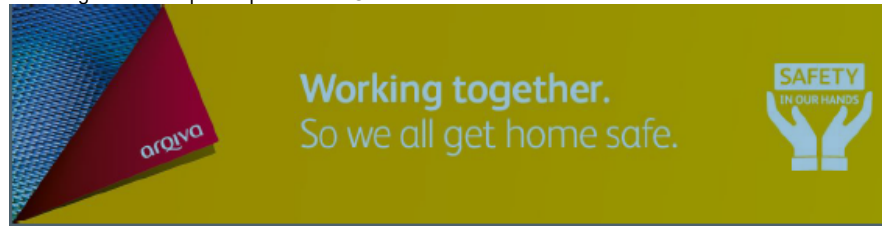


SHE Poster 2016
A3.pdf

Work involving or significant risks	
Excavation	All Temp works to be fully designed and agreed. Operatives driving Plant to be fully trained and competent
Buried Services	Service drawings to be checked, Area of excavation to be Cat scanned. Any services found to be exposed carefully by hand. Permit to Dig to me in Place before mechanical excavation works can commence. Banksman supervising excavation at all times
Manual Handling	Trained and competent personnel on site
Concrete	Full PPE worn as detailed in COSHH data sheets
Hot Works	Fully approved Method in place with valid Hot Works Permit. Focus on local ecology and stringent measures in place for control.

Covid 19 guidance

All working practices have been considered for the task taking into account social distancing and the instance when this will need to be breached. Only in the event of an incident would the 2.00 m rule be breached. Further guidance as per Arqiva's latest Guidance.



VERSION No.2

COVID-19 Key Requirements – Arqiva Operational Sites

These requirements must be followed when accessing and performing work at Arqiva operational sites / areas where an approved Gateway site access permit is required. The aim of these requirements are to protect individuals and limit the spread of the COVID-19 so we all get home safe. They must be followed by Arqiva employees, contractors and site sharers.

Key rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High levels of hygiene are maintained at all times Work activities are planned to maintain 2m social distancing Clinically vulnerable people are protected
Travel to site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid public transport if feasible Travel separately if feasible Travel from home to site in a day or stay in named accommodation
Who can access site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key workers with a valid Gateway site access permit Non Arqiva employees are not permitted to access Arqiva only communal areas
Gateway permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permits other than ground cabin / roof cabin will be one per day per site The first team on site must coordinate with subsequent teams to ensure clear demarcation of work groups
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All work must have a method statement and risk assessment as a minimum It must detail how you will work and the COVID-19 control measures or be supplemented by a COVID-19 controls statement You must display the Government mandated "Staying COVID-19 Secure" sign and ensure it is visible to the work group
Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands must be sanitised as you enter and leave site Gloves must be worn when transiting from vehicles to the place of work when opening gates / doors and common touchpoints
Social distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All work activities must be planned to maintain 2m social distancing Breaches of 2m social distancing must have a specific risk assessment and control measures in place to manage the transmission risk Outside work group sizes must be restricted to 5 or less persons. Where greater than 5 persons work areas must be zoned to separate the group Indoors the room size should dictate work maximum group size, each worker requires 4m² of space
Climbing (masts and towers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit if safe to do so to one climber on the structure at any one time Maintain 10m distance between climbers on the ladder Carry and use hand sanitiser when removing gloves and at regular intervals Eating and smoking are not permitted. Drinks are permitted, use a sports bottle to prevent touching the lid If you sneeze and cannot use your elbow, turn away from the climbing space
Waste / Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste should not be left on site and materials secured overnight
Vulnerable individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinically extremely vulnerable people must not attend site Work activities must be planned to protect clinically vulnerable people in the work group
If you feel unwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not attend site If on site, stay in your vehicle and get help or travel home and self-isolate

Issued by Arqiva Operational Resilience Director

May 2020

Further COVID 19 Precautions

- Due to the current risk of contracting COVID19 the following precautions will be followed during all site works by all members of the site team.
- All personnel are to maintain a social distance
- All personnel to travel to site in individual vehicles.
- All welfare/vehicles and communal area's to be always kept clean and tidy.
- Wash your hands with soap and water on a regular basis – do this for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze. Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- Arqiva team members for the works will be red team to prevent potential cross contamination between teams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If for any reason social distancing rules need to be breached, then facemasks to be worn for only short periods of time of no more than 10 mins to a maximum of 30mins between two individuals in one working day. • Avoidance where at all possible of face to face working. • Common touch areas within the building or gates will be wiped down with hand wipes on a regular basis and when entering and leaving site.
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Appendices

Appendix A – Pre-construction Information	
Appendix B – Designers risk assessment information	
Supporting Information	<p>Prior to the commencement of the task being carried out an Approved Method Statement is to be in place and fully briefed and signed onto by all personnel on site. If for any reason it is found the task cannot be carried out as per the method statement works will stop, amendments made and re-submitted for approval, agreed, re-briefed and signed onto before recommencing.</p> <p>The following method statement to be read in conjunction with statutory documents, guidance, work instructions and drawings as listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Site Specific Risk Assessment 2. Permit to Dig 3. Hot Works Permit 4. BOW 1557-Action in the event of an emergency 5. BOW1559 -Site Attendee 6. Use of Hand Tools - T000112 RA 7. CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE 8. BOP103.7Arqiva Health and Safety Policy 9. BOP207.17 Waste Management 10. BOP667-9 Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment. 11. BOP668 Manual handling. 12. Covid 19 Key requirements when working on Operational sites 13. Covid 19 Field Based company guidance 14. RF Safety – BOP372 15. Health and Safety at work act 1974 <p>General Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional on-site risk assessment covering hazards not covered in the Site-Specific Risk Assessment will be carried out before work begins on site every day, documented and briefed. • A site induction will be carried out by the Site Manager to all personnel on site associated with the works. Note that no other works will be allowed access during this time. • Daily Briefings will be carried out and documented prior to the start of work every day covering the task for the day. • Personnel carrying rig is to be set up as per the below site layout plan. • All equipment must be fully inspected and in date before use. • A pre-use check must be made on all equipment prior to use. • Where cutting is required an approved hot works permit will be in place before commencing and fire extinguishers available on site. • Common touch areas within the building or gates will be wiped down with hand wipes.

Works phases

Station tower will be built in 2 phases with civil construction first and AirWorks following.

Civil foundation – start date 18th Oct completion in 3 weeks

Airworks – 15 November completion in 4 weeks.

The completion of the station tower will allow services to be transferred from the 80 Quarry mast and in turn allow that to be dismantled. The Station tower will then be the main service provider on the site until full service is restored. On this date the programme for decommission of the 80m tower can commence.

Groundworks

Access

Works on the station tower will be accessed via the main Arqiva access route (east track). The current vehicles selected are suitable for access via this route and can be escorted up by Arqiva site management to reduce risks on the road. The hair pin bend will require some improvements works to the inner corner. The inner 1.5m of the bend would benefit from new tarmac to minimise risk of vehicles getting stuck on the apex and reduce the chance of damaging the corner further.



The inner section of road will have the soil excavated with a machine and replaced with a layer of barrier material, type one stone and then 2 layers of tarmac to make level with the current road surface. All works should take 2 days and follow full method statement provided by the civil engineering contractor.

Site set up

The site will require a hardstanding area to the east of the main compound to house welfare, materials and plant during the project. This area will also be used to build the individual steel sections into complete panels prior to lifting by the crane which will also be located in this location. This will also provide the access to the location of the tower and will have some of the ground based technical equipment containers located on it once the tower is complete. The hard standing will be created following discussion with the ecologists to agree what protected species, flora and fauna must be removed initially, this can then be carried out by an approved representative, as per the quarry mast solution. The ground will then be prepared by scraping back and removing the top layer of soil to a depth of approx. 200mm to a firm ground strata using a 13T Excavator. The removed soil will be stockpiled to the side for future landscaping and a protective barrier polythene mat will be placed between the soil and the layers of approved stone. The stone will be delivered directly to the area in 12T loads and placed using a combination of 6T dumpers and the excavator. Finally the stone will be levelled and compacted to create a firm level surface which is safe for access and the construction work.

Plant

The plant to be used on site for the civil works will be as follows:

- 13T Tracked Excavator
- 2x 6T dumpers
- Bomag 180 Roller

There will also be deliveries to the site and this will consist of:

- Approx. 70 concrete wagons
- Approx. 60 tipper wagons for stone delivery (12T load)
- Approx. 25 Muck away wagons (12T load)
- Approx. 15 other deliveries (mast base frame, rebar, shutters, plant, welfare, heras fencing, other materials)

Excavation

Initially, a ground investigation will take place using a cable percussive ground rig to bore a hole to approximately 5m depth to confirm the depth of strata which will achieve the required safe bearing capacity.

The ground will be prepared for the location of the foundation. The works will consist of removing any protected habitat and species from the area, to follow ecologist guidance. Once removed the excavator will work from the North face to minimise movement off the hardstanding and excavate to the agreed depth. The dumpers will then be used to transport the soil to a designated area for disposal or future use depending on ecological decision.

The excavation will be made as tight as possible to limit any over reaching into surrounding areas but will provide enough space to install all shuttering rebar.

Following excavation a blinding layer of concrete will be cast up to a level 1.75m below ground for the foundation to be constructed onto. The concrete will be brought to site in delivery wagons and discharged directly into the excavation and/or into the bucket of the excavator for placement on the north side.

Shuttering

Shuttering will be PERI Shuttering which is pre-constructed panels secured together in the excavation using steel beams. Full details will be in the Method Statement which will be provided by the civils contractor. All materials will be brought to site and assembled on the hard standing area and lifted into the excavation by the excavator.

Any waste material will be disposed of in the covered skip.

Concrete pour

Concrete will be transported to site in standard concrete wagons however these will carry 2 cubic metres less than their full capacity to reduce any potential damage on the access track, prevent material loss on the steeper sections of track and reduce loading on the bridge at the lower end of the track. This will require approximately 45 wagons and will be managed on one long day to avoid a construction joint in the concrete base. Vehicle access onto the moor at this time may be limited and Arqiva will have access controls at the moor and on the track at its base.

Once at the tower base location, the concrete wagon will discharge into a concrete pump which will place the concrete into the foundation as required avoiding segregation of the concrete and aggregate material.

Completion

On completion of the construction area, the hardstanding area will be re-levelled and compacted as necessary and the stockpiled topsoil used to dress any edges or damaged corners etc. All plant, equipment and excess materials will be removed from site.

Airworks

The construction of the tower and the antenna installations are all still in planning for the full design and detail. The following details the probable method for the works and will be confirmed once the air works contractor is assigned.

Once the hard standing and foundation are available for use, the supplier will station themselves out with the main compound along the hard standing created by the civil contractor. The welfare, storage containers and structure steelwork will be on the hardstanding or within the staging area in the main mast compound or will be transported to site as and when required. The site will be fenced off to prevent access onto any area out with that in the drawing requests. Due to the limited area available vehicles to site will be limited and only necessary plant will be on the moor.

The lower sections of the tower will be built via a 70Tonne crane. This will access up the east access route and be positioned to the south of the foundation on the hard standing. The lower sections will be manoeuvred into place with the use of telehandlers and the crane to the required location and bolted to the foundation.

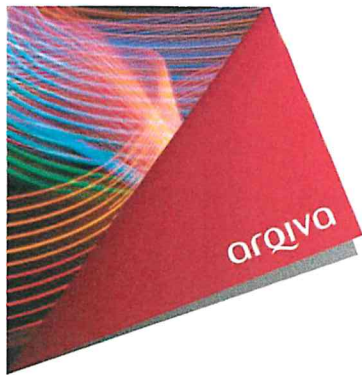
Due to the crane that can access the main road the top sections of the 80m tower and the main antennas will be built by helicopter. This will have full planning sessions to determine the method, but this will either have materials picked up from the hardstanding or will be flown from a staging area at the base of the hill, outside of the SSSI habitat.

Secondary antennas will be lifted on to the tower with small winches located on the hard standing and rigged in a way to position on any face on the tower.

Plant

	<p>70Tonne crane Helicopter equipped to carry 2 tonne load Telehandler x 2 Tractor and trailer MWEF (possible for connection works with the crane)</p> <p>Deliveries 30 lorry deliveries of materials (tower and antennas) 10 container and gantry lorry deliveries. On completion the tower will be completed with all antennas required for each service on the site. The containers for transmitters and combiners will be stationed in the Arqiva compound as much as possible of next to the fence line, to leave as much access around the tower as possible. See site plan for the layout of the proposed solution.</p>
Appendix D – Arqiva procedures covering construction related works	<p>Asbestos – BOP106, SHE004 Contractor accreditation and management – BOP034, BOP623, BOP573 and BOP719 CoSHH – BOP331 Dual working – BOP927 Electrical – BOP669, SHE005, BOP589, BOP1057, BOW1009, BOW1008, BOW682 Construction Management and CDM – BOP671 Fire and Emergency Procedures – BOP283 (fire), BOP761, Gas cylinders – BOIS031 Ladders – BOIS012 LOLER – BOP667 Manual Handling – BOP668 Permit to work and Safe Systems of Work – BOP531 PPE – BOP157 Preparation of RAMS – BOP233, BOP168, SHE002 PUWER – BOIS007 Reporting and investigating incidents – BOP665 RF Safety – BOP372 Signs and notices – IM2943 Site Management – BOW547 Site rules – BOW109, BOW142 Toolbox talks IM2963 Welfare procedure – BOP1056 Work at height (buildings) – BOP666 Work at height (platform) – BOP1051 Work at height (satellite dishes) – BOP1052 Work at height (structures) – BOP670</p>

Briefing		
Method Statement will be Briefed by:		
Acknowledgment from site personnel that they have read and understood MS:		
Name	Signature	Date



NYMNP
22/09/2021

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Chris France,
Director of Planning,
North York Moors National Park Authority,
The Old Vicarage,
Helmsley,
York,
North Yorkshire YO62 5BP

20th September 2021

Dear Chris

Statement supporting the proposed location of the Station Tower

I am sure, like Arqiva, you will recognise the significant impact caused to viewers and listeners across the region served by the Bilsdale Transmitting Station. We at Arqiva are working round the clock on plans and activities to restore services to as many people as possible, as quickly as is possible.

The recovery plans involve the construction of a 80 metre Lattice Station Tower. The location of the Station Tower is critical to the restoration and continuation of services in the medium and longer term.

The Station Tower will be populated with a UHF Television Antenna System, and several Broadcast Radio Antenna Systems. Additionally, the Tower will enable greater connectivity resilience to the location, by linking the new Tower through Microwave Radio to the national Arqiva Distribution IP Network.

The Station Tower location is critical to the success of service recovery. The coverage of the Broadcast Service is maximised by locating the Station Tower adjacent to the existing Bilsdale Transmitting Site.

The proposed tower location is 380m above ordnance datum (aod). Ground height is paramount in the selection criteria, which is partly why the existing mast is located where it is. Broadly the higher the ground, the better the coverage potential.

As an example, a location near to the village of Grange would be below 200m (aod). As the antenna height on the tower is 80m, the transmitting signal leaving the antenna, would be below the surrounding terrain in all directions. It is not possible to provide coverage from such a location. Furthermore, there would be a similar impact on coverage if the location was further north, south or west. Whilst some coverage would be possible, the surrounding terrain would block coverage to significant population areas of the target area.

Only Bilsdale Moor, due to the glorious nature of the terrain of the North Yorkshire Moors, is able to provide good coverage from an 80m tower towards Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley to the north, the Vale of York and eastern Pennines to the west, and towards Harrogate, York, Malton and Pickering to the south.

An alternate moorland location further east would limit coverage to the Vale of York to the west, a location to the north would limit coverage to the south towards York, and to the south would limit coverage to the north towards Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley.

Today, over 600,000 households have directional antenna pointing towards Bilsdale Transmitting Station. A significant change of proposed location, depending on direction, would result in households potentially having to reorientate TV aerials. A key design requirement in our plans has been and continues to be, the need to guard against having to reorientate household aerials.

For the reasons above, an alternate location outside the existing Special Area of Conservation (SAC) doesn't provide the coverage of service required.

Therefore, in conclusion to provide the maximum recovered coverage of Bilsdale Transmitting Station, the site must be within the immediate, high moorland vicinity of the existing transmitter site.

Additionally, there are other benefits to the proposed location:

- The design proposal intends to utilise land within the existing demise, minimising the boundary area increase, compared to a new dedicated perimeter demise elsewhere on the moor.
- The intention is to utilise the existing Bilsdale site electrical supply and infrastructure to provide power for the Station Tower ground containers. This means no electrical Generators will be required as the main power source, resulting in no emissions, for example NOx and Particulates.

In summary, the proposed Station Tower location is the optimum choice.

I trust that due consideration will be given to the rationale behind the proposed location.

Television and Radio services are a vital lifeline for many and restoring those services to the population must be our mutual priority.

Yours sincerely

Kenny Skillen CEng

Head of Engineering
Broadcast, Satellite & Media Platforms

arqiva