



Transboundary screening undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for the purposes of Regulation 32 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations)	
Project name:	Grimsby to Walpole Project
Address/Location:	An overhead line and substations located between Grimsby in North East Lincolnshire and Walpole St Andrew in King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN020036
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – 8 October 2024 following the Applicant's request for a scoping opinion

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	Grimsby to Walpole Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report ('the Scoping Report') (August 2024)
Screening Criteria:	The Inspectorate's Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The Proposed Development comprises a c.140km overhead electricity transmission line from a new 400kV substation west of the town of Grimsby in North East Lincolnshire ('Grimsby West Substation') to a new 400kV substation west of the village of Walpole St Andrew and north of the town of Wisbech, in King's Lynn and West Norfolk District ('Walpole B Substation'). The pylons would likely be steel lattice and approximately 50m in height.</p> <p>The Proposed Development also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two new 400 kV Lincolnshire Connection Substations (LCS) located south-west of Mablethorpe in East Lindsey ('LCS-A' and 'LCS-B'); • 'Weston Marsh Substation' - a new 400kV substation in the vicinity of the Spalding Tee-Point in South Holland District; and • potentially the decommissioning of the current Grimsby West Substation. <p>The Proposed Development is anticipated to commence construction in 2029 and be operational by 2033.</p> <p>Construction of the Proposed Development would require materials including galvanised steel for pylons, reinforced</p>

	<p>concrete for the foundations, insulator sets (typically glass, porcelain or polymeric) and aluminium/copper conductors. recycled materials.</p> <p>The types and quantities of waste materials likely to be produced by the Proposed Development have not been estimated in the Scoping Report. A Site Waste Management Plan would be produced prior to construction.</p>
<p>Location of Development (including existing use) and Geographical area</p>	<p>The majority of the Proposed Development is located in the East Midlands Region, with a section to the north in Yorkshire and Humber, and a section to the south in Norfolk, as illustrated on Figure 1.1 Scoping Boundary of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The site is predominantly rural, with large parts of the land under arable use. The towns of Grimsby, Louth, Boston, and Spalding are located within 5km of the Project. There are also multiple villages and individual properties near to the Project.</p> <p>Tables 4.2 to 4.5 of the Scoping Report identify other projects that are expected to connect to the substations of the Proposed Development. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecoenergy Solar and Battery Energy Solar Storage (BESS); • Stallingborough Solar and BESS; • Carbon Free 2020 Solar and BESS; • Stallingborough Carbon Capture; • Eastern Green Link 3; • Eastern Green Link 4; • Aminth (Volta Energy Aminth Energy Ltd) Interconnector; • Mablethorpe Storage (Statera) Electrolyser and Combined Cycle Gas Turbine; • Frontier Power SENCA (Nu Link) Interconnector; • EcoMablethorpe Solar and BESS; • Mablethorpe Green Energy (Inova) Solar and BESS; • Offshore DC link; • Holbeach Marsh Energy Park; • Spalding Photovoltaic (PV) and BESS Station; • Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm Connection; and • Walpole Flexible Generation. <p>Other infrastructure projects are also proposed within the region, including various solar farms.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify the nearest EEA state to the Proposed Development. No information is provided in the Scoping Report about any areas which could be affected that are under the jurisdiction of an EEA State.</p>
<p>Environmental Importance</p>	<p>The Scoping Report (Table 8.3) identifies the following European sites within the National Site Network as being located within 30km of the Proposed Development (including those with birds that are listed as qualifying features):</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humber Estuary SPA, SAC & Ramsar; • Saltfleetby –Theddlethorpe Dunes & Gibraltar Point SAC; • Gibraltar Point SPA & Ramsar; • The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC; • The Wash SPA & Ramsar; • Nene Washes SPA & Ramsar; and • Ouse Washes SPA & Ramsar. <p>Figure 8.1 of the Scoping Report identifies the locations of ‘Statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation within 10km’.</p> <p>The application site and surrounding area could potentially be functionally linked to European sites, for example if it is used by SPA/ Ramsar bird qualifying features or through hydrological connectivity.</p> <p>Further bird survey work is to be undertaken by the Applicant to inform the environmental baseline and the subsequent EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).</p>
<p>Potential impacts and Carrier</p>	<p>The Scoping Report identifies European sites within the National Site Network in proximity to the Proposed Development. Tables 8.4 and 8.7 identify the following potentially adverse impacts on qualifying features of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permanent habitat loss; • temporary habitat loss, disturbance and fragmentation; • displacement of birds using Functionally Linked Land; • changes in air quality impacting habitats; • indirect pollution impacts and changes to lighting; • introduction of invasive non-native species; • loss/reduction in habitat quality due to changes in ground water levels or altered water quality; and • increased predation from a potential increased population of predatory bird species nesting and roosting on proposed pylons; and • collision mortality with permanent structures. <p>The Scoping Report states that a Habitats Regulations Assessment will consider the potential impact pathways upon qualifying features of the European sites (and Functionally Linked Land), including the direct loss of habitat and disturbance.</p>
<p>Extent</p>	<p>The extent of impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.</p>
<p>Magnitude</p>	<p>The magnitude of impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.</p>

Probability	<p>The probability of impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.</p>
Duration	<p>The duration of impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage. Potential impacts to migratory birds from collision risk with the OHL are likely to be long-term, throughout the operational phase of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.</p>
Frequency	<p>The frequency of potential impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage. Potential impacts to migratory birds from collision risk with the OHL are likely to be continuous, throughout the operational phase of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.</p>
Reversibility	<p>The reversibility of potential impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.</p>
Cumulative impacts	<p>A specific list of other developments to be included within the cumulative effects assessment has not been provided within the Scoping Report, but the types of plans or projects that may be considered are described in Section 5.5 of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The Applicant's cumulative effects assessment has not yet been undertaken and the Applicant has not identified any likely significant cumulative effects at this stage.</p>

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Under Regulation 32 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations) and on the basis of the current information available from the Applicant, the Inspectorate is of the view that the Proposed Development is **not likely** to have a significant effect on the environment in an EEA State.

In reaching this view the Inspectorate has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in its Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts), and taken into account the information currently supplied by the Applicant.

Action:

No further action required at this stage. Transboundary issues notification under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations is not required.

Date: 8 October 2024

Note: The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.

Note:

The Inspectorate's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in the Annex to its Advice Note Twelve, available on our website at <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>