



**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)**

<b>Project name:</b>	Chesterfield to Willington
<b>Address/Location:</b>	Between Chesterfield and Willington, Derbyshire
<b>Planning Inspectorate Ref:</b>	EN0210001
<b>Date(s) screening undertaken:</b>	First screening – 25 February 2025 following the Applicant's request for a scoping opinion

**FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING**

<b>Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:</b>	Chesterfield to Willington Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report ('the Scoping Report') (October 2024)
<b>Screening Criteria:</b>	<b>The Inspectorate's Comments:</b>
<b>Characteristics of the Development</b>	<p>The Proposed Development comprises a c.60km 400kV overhead electricity transmission line from a new 400kV substation at Chesterfield (adjacent to the existing 275 kV Chesterfield Substation) to the existing Willington substation. The pylons are likely to be steel lattice and approximately 50m in height.</p> <p>The Proposed Development also includes replacement of short sections of existing overhead line; works at the connection of the overhead line to the substations; potential sections of underground and cabling along with cable sealing end compounds; permanent accesses; and potential utility diversions.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is anticipated to commence construction in 2028 and be operational by 2032.</p> <p>Construction of the Proposed Development would require materials including steel for the pylons, concrete for the foundations, insulator sets and aluminium conductors (wire) and the underground cables.</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>

<b>Location of Development (including existing use) and Geographical area</b>	<p>The Proposed Development is located wholly within the County of Derbyshire as illustrated on Figure 1.1 Scoping Boundary of the Scoping Report. It crosses the following local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northeast Derbyshire District Council;</li> <li>• Amber Valley Borough Council;</li> <li>• Erewash Borough Council;</li> <li>• South Derbyshire District Council;</li> <li>• Bolsover District Council; and</li> <li>• Derby City Council.</li> </ul> <p>The site is predominantly characterised by a rural setting with agricultural fields. The route travels in a southerly direction from the proposed new Chesterfield Substation between the urban areas of Derby and Nottingham, crossing the Amber and Derwent Valley. It follows a westerly alignment to the south of Derby towards the existing Willington Substation.</p> <p>A sectional breakdown of the Scoping Boundary is outlined in Chapter 4: Description of the Project of the Scoping Report.</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>
<b>Environmental Importance</b>	<p>Table 7.4 of the Scoping Report identifies the following European sites within the National Site Network as being located within 20km of the Proposed Development (including those with birds that are listed as qualifying features):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Pennine Moors SAC;</li> <li>• Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1);</li> <li>• Peak District Dales SAC;</li> <li>• Gang Mine SAC;</li> <li>• River Mease SAC;</li> <li>• Bees Nest &amp; Green Clay Pits SAC; and</li> <li>• Birklands and Birlaugh SAC.</li> </ul> <p>Figure 7.1 of the Scoping Report identifies the locations of 'Sites Designated for Biodiversity'.</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>
<b>Potential impacts and Carrier</b>	<p>The Scoping Report identifies European sites within the National Site Network in proximity to the Proposed Development. Tables 7.8 and 7.11 identify the following potentially adverse impacts on qualifying features of these sites:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• noise, vibration and physical activities leading to disturbance;</li> <li>• habitat removal;</li> <li>• aquatic habitat loss/damage or restriction of passage and severance;</li> <li>• hydrological changes in surface water and groundwater;</li> <li>• changes in air quality impacting habitats;</li> <li>• increased predation from a potential increased population of predatory bird species nesting and roosting on proposed pylons;</li> <li>• electrocution; and</li> <li>• collision mortality with permanent structures.</li> </ul> <p>The Scoping Report states that a Habitats Regulations Assessment will consider the potential impact pathways upon qualifying features of the European sites.</p>
<b>Extent</b>	<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>
<b>Magnitude</b>	<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>
<b>Probability</b>	<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>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>The duration of impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage. Potential impacts to migratory birds from collision risk and electrocution from 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>
<b>Frequency</b>	<p>The frequency of potential impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage. Potential impacts to migratory birds from collision risk and electrocution from 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>
<b>Reversibility</b>	<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>
<b>Cumulative impacts</b>	<p>A specific list of other developments to be included within the cumulative effects assessment has not been provided within the</p>

	<p>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>
<p><b><u>Transboundary screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS</u></b></p> <p>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 <b>is not likely</b> to have a significant effect on the environment in an EEA State.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><b><u>Action:</u></b></p> <p>No further action required at this stage. Transboundary issues notification under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations is not required.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 25 February 2025</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p>	

**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/>