



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:	Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire
Address/Location:	An overhead line and substations located in the East Midlands region. The eastern part of the proposed development lies within South Holland, the central parts of the proposed development lie within South Kesteven and Melton, and southern part lies within Harborough, North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire.
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN0210007
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – 11 March 2026 following the applicant’s request for a scoping opinion

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	Environment Impact Assessment Scoping Report (‘the Scoping Report’) (November 2025)
Screening Criteria:	The Inspectorate’s Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The proposed development comprises a new overhead electricity transmission over a distance of approximately 60km starting from a new 400kV Weston Marsh substation (which is part of the Grimsby to Walpole Project), in the Spalding region of Lincolnshire, and ending at a new 400kV substation in East Leicestershire (WMEL-B) near Wartnaby in Leicestershire, via a new 400kV transmission substation (WMEL-A) near Corby Glen in Lincolnshire. The pylons would likely be steel lattice and approximately 50m but up to 60m in height if required.</p> <p>The proposed development includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60km of new 400kV overhead transmission line. • Two new 400kV substations (WMEL-A and WMEL-B). • Reconductoring of approximately 66km of existing transmission infrastructure from the new WMEL-B substation, running south to the existing Grendon substation, east of Northampton.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of short sections of existing 400kV overhead line and local changes to the lower voltage distribution networks. <p>The proposed development may potentially include up to two new 400kV substations to connect existing 400 kV 4ZM transmission line that runs south-east of Sleaford towards King’s Lynn, and the existing 400 kV 2WS transmission line that runs east of Spalding towards a Tee-Point with the 400 kV 4ZM transmission line between Sleaford and King’s Lynn.</p> <p>The proposed development is anticipated to commence construction in 2030 and be operational by 2034. Construction of the proposed development would require materials such as galvanised steel for towers, reinforced concrete for the foundation, insulator sets (typically glass porcelain or polymeric) and aluminium / copper conductors. Recycled materials and temporary materials such as aggregate for access routes and site compounds, works cabins and security fencing would also be required. 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. The proposed development has been divided into five sections based on the boundaries of the local authorities including South Holland, South Kesteven, Melton, Harborough and North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire, as illustrated in Figure 1.2 Scoping Boundary of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The proposed development spans a predominantly rural landscape extending from the low-lying fenland of South Holland through the rolling uplands of Leicestershire and into the gently undulating Northamptonshire Vales. Current land use within the scoping boundary is largely agricultural, with some individual properties, towns and villages in proximity to the proposed development. There are also transport links and environmental designations across the five sections.</p> <p>The proposed development is expected to connect to Weston Marsh substation infrastructure and the Grimsby to Walpole project, as well as other transmission projects in the region. The Scoping Report states that various solar and housing developments as well as the Lincolnshire Reservoir and pipeline project are currently being developed within the region.</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>Table 8.3 of the Scoping Report identifies the following European sites designated for nature conservation within 10km of the</p>

	<p>proposed development and European sites designated for birds and bats within 30km of the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site • Grimsthorpe SAC • The Wash SPA and Ramsar site • Baston Fen SAC • Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site • Nene Washes SPA and Ramsar site <p>The above European sites are shown in Figure 8.1 of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>Part of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar site are located within section 5 of the proposed development where the reconductoring works are proposed.</p> <p>The Wash SPA and Ramsar site are hydrologically connected to the application site via the River Welland.</p> <p>The application site and surrounding area could potentially be functionally linked to European sites, for example if it is used by qualifying bird features of the SPA/ Ramsar site or through hydrological connectivity.</p> <p>Further ecological surveys are to be undertaken by the applicant to inform the environmental baseline and the subsequent EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).</p>
Potential impacts and Carrier	<p>The Scoping Report does not identify any potential impacts that are likely to lead to significant effects on the environment in an EEA State.</p>
Extent	
Magnitude	
Probability	
Duration	
Frequency	
Reversibility	
Cumulative impacts	<p>A list of projects for consideration of cumulative impacts has not been provided in the Scoping Report. However, 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 impact assessment (CIA) has not yet been undertaken, and the applicant has not identified any likely significant cumulative effects at this stage.</p>
<p><u>Transboundary screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS</u></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</p>	

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 Page Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process), 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: 11 March 2026

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 Page, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process, available at:

['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process'](#).