



Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State	
Project name:	London Paramount Entertainment Resort
Address/Location:	Swanscombe Peninsula, Kent
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	BC080001
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – 10 February 2015 following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion
EEA States identified for notification:	First screening: None identified

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	London Paramount Entertainment Resort Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report ('the Scoping Report') (November 2014)
Date	10 February 2015
Screening Criteria:	Secretary of State Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The proposed development comprises an entertainment resort complex (including event spaces, rides, hotels, and retail and catering space), together with its associated infrastructure. The site is approximately 537 hectares in size and the main components of the development are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A core resort area (45ha approx.) with a range of event spaces, rides, studio attractions, cinemas, theatres, a water park, an open-air arena, night clubs, catering, retail and amenity facilities themed around films and television programmes; • Approximately 30,000m² of event space for conferences and trade shows; • A range of hotels with a combined total of approximately 5,000 bedrooms; • Staff training facilities; • A country park and river bus access beside the River Thames; • Approximately 14,000 car parking spaces, partly in multi-storey facilities, and bus and coach parking; • A transport interchange, including a ticket office; • A new four-lane dual carriageway between the core resort area and the A2(T)/B259 junction; • Flood prevention works on part of the site; • Landscape works throughout including earth shaping, new planting and habitat creation; • Provision of service infrastructure including water, electricity and gas supplies, telecommunications and arrangements for wastewater treatment and disposal; and • Improvements to the highway network (if required). <p>Other 'associated development' may also be proposed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works to roads and footpaths;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversion or realignment of watercourses; • The construction of new road, rail or footbridges; • Railway works; • Jetties; • Parking spaces for workers or users of the principal development; • Public transport infrastructure and services; • Construction compounds, temporary haul roads, vehicular marshalling facilities and construction laydown areas; • Connections to electricity, gas, telecommunications, water, and wastewater networks; • Landscape and planting works; • Flood defences and flood mitigation measures; • Water balancing facilities; • Creation of compensatory habitats or replacement green space; • Noise barriers; • Security measures. <p>Construction is expected to take around 3 years between January 2017 and December 2019.</p>
<p>Geographical area</p>	<p>The proposals will not extend into any area of another EEA State.</p> <p>The Scoping Report uses a maximum five hour travel time zone to identify the origins of potential visitors to the proposed development from other EEA States. The time allows for travel within the EEA State to a transport hub / facility, check-in timescales and travel within the UK to the Project Site.</p> <p>A filtering process is applied to identify the locations that meet these criteria, with France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany identified as the States with the potential to experience significant transboundary effects. According to the Report the size of the populations within this zone are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nord Pas de Calais: c. 4m ➤ Picardy: c.2m ➤ Upper Normandy: c.3.4m ➤ Lower Normandy: c.1.5m ➤ Champagne: c.1.3m ➤ Ile of France: c.12m ➤ Centre: c 2.5m ➤ Burgundy: c1.6m • Belgium c. 11m • Luxembourg: c.550,000 • Netherlands c. 18m • Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ North Rhine-Westphalia: c.17.8m ➤ Rhineland-Palatinate: c.4m ➤ Saarland: c.1m

<p>Location of Development (including existing use)</p>	<p>The site is located approximately 30km to the east-south-east of central London on the south bank of the Thames estuary, Kent. It covers much of the Swanscombe Peninsula, which comprises low-lying open land, extensive former cement kiln dust tips and other brownfield former-industrial land. The area was used historically for mineral and chalk extraction and subsequently has an irregular topography with extraction pits and areas of tipped material.</p> <p>A derelict waste water treatment facility exists on the northern end of the peninsula, and a Port of London Authority (PLA) radar beacon is located at its northern tip. High voltage electricity lines cross the peninsula south-east to north-west, and are carried across the Thames by a 190m tall 'superpylon' located on the northern bank of the peninsula.</p> <p>The Scoping Report states that the shortest distance to a neighbouring EEA state is France at approximately 120km. The distances to other relevant EEA States are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgium: approximately 200km • Netherlands: approximately 220km • Germany: approximately 420km.
<p>Cumulative impacts</p>	<p>Paragraph 4.13 of the Scoping Report states that, at present, the following projects will be considered in the cumulative effects assessment in the EIA for the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ebbsfleet Garden City • Crossrail • Lower Thames Crossing • London Gateway Port <p>The potential for the cumulative effects of these projects to have significant transboundary effects is not specifically addressed in the Scoping Report. All of the topic specific sections of the Scoping Report (which consider the potential for cumulative effects) conclude that the project is unlikely to have significant transboundary effects however.</p>
<p>Carrier</p>	<p>The most likely carrier of transboundary effects is through increasing or decreasing the numbers of visitors to attractions in other EEA States. The Scoping Report acknowledges that this could result in the following impact pathways for transboundary effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic and Transport: from visitor trips between EEA States and the UK which result in transport capacity problems which cannot be mitigated. • Air Quality: from vehicle emissions associated with visitor trips from other EEA States which have an adverse effect on residential properties or ecologically sensitive designated sites which cannot be mitigated. • Socio-economic: from the redistribution of visitors from visitor attractions within other EEA States and/or where

	<p>business opportunities are created in the EEA States as a direct result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Given the inter-related nature of these impacts they are considered in this screening assessment under the heading 'Visitors'.</p> <p>The other potential carrier of transboundary effects is via impacts (e.g. disturbance/loss) to bird populations within or near to the development site which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are designated features of the European Sites within the vicinity (see below); and • Are important to other EEA States.
<p>Environmental Importance</p>	<p>Visitors</p> <p>The relative importance of potentially affected visitors in other EEA States is not described in the Scoping Report. Based on visitors for Disneyland Paris it is estimated however that the annual number of visitors to London Paramount from countries outside the UK would be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France 7,599,000 • Benelux 894,000 • Netherlands 894,000 • Spain 1,192,000 • Italy 447,000 • Germany 447,000 • Rest of World 1,341,000 <p>Ornithology</p> <p>The Scoping Report refers to the following features within or near the proposed development site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thames Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar lies (approximately 7.5km to the east) • Medway Estuary & Marshes SPA/Ramsar (approximately 19km to the east) • Swale SPA/Ramsar lies (32km to the east) <p>All of these sites are designated for their importance in supporting a variety of breeding, overwintering and passage migrant birds along the Thames estuary and north Kent coast. Bird species within the sites include grebes, geese, ducks, waders, marsh harriers, breeding waders and Mediterranean gulls.</p> <p>The Report does not describe the importance to other EEA States of the sites or species referred to above.</p>
<p>Extent</p>	<p>Visitors</p> <p>The potential extent of transboundary effects resulting from</p>

	<p>changes in visitor numbers is France, Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. Areas of these States fall within the 5 hour travelling time of the proposed development as identified in the Scoping Report and therefore have the potential to experience significant effects.</p> <p>Ornithology</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not describe the potential extent of impacts on bird species (e.g. in terms of the size of the affected population and their importance to other EEA States). It is therefore not possible to determine the potential extent of impacts on other EEA States.</p>
Magnitude	<p>Visitors</p> <p>As described above, the Scoping Report summarises the high-level assessment undertaken to determine the potential visitor numbers from the above EEA States that could be drawn to the proposed development. This was based on a desk-top review of a comparable development, Disneyland Paris, which attracts a similar number of visitors to those expected at the proposed development.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the figures provided, the likely numbers of visitors to the development from the other EEA States identified is likely to be small to negligible compared with the likely overall tourism numbers for the potentially affected EEA States. (although these are not provided in the Scoping Report). It is also possible that that many potential visitors to the development from other EEA States would be visiting the UK anyway and therefore the development would not directly and/or significantly reduce the number of visitors to other States.</p> <p>Ornithology</p> <p>No potential impacts are identified in the Scoping Report which would be likely to have significant effects on important bird species in another EEA State.</p>
Probability	<p>Visitors</p> <p>No potential impacts are identified in the Scoping Report which would be likely to have significant effects on the number of visitors to other EEA States.</p> <p>Ornithology</p> <p>No potential impacts are identified in the Scoping Report which would be likely to have significant effects on important bird species in another EEA State.</p>

<p>Duration</p>	<p>Visitors</p> <p>No potential impacts are identified in the Scoping Report which would be likely to have significant effects on the number of visitors to other EEA States.</p> <p>Ornithology</p> <p>No potential impacts are identified in the Scoping Report which would be likely to have significant effects on important bird species in another EEA State.</p>
<p>Frequency</p>	<p>Visitors</p> <p>No potential impacts are identified in the Scoping Report which would be likely to have significant effects on the number of visitors to other EEA States.</p> <p>Ornithology</p> <p>No potential impacts are identified in the Scoping Report which would be likely to have significant effects on important bird species in another EEA State.</p>
<p>Reversibility</p>	<p>Visitors</p> <p>No potential impacts are identified in the Scoping Report which would be likely to have significant effects on the number of visitors to other EEA States.</p> <p>Ornithology</p> <p>No potential impacts are identified in the Scoping Report which would be likely to have significant effects on important bird species in another EEA State.</p>

Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State

Under Regulation 24 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations) and on the basis of the current information available from the Applicant, the Secretary of State is of the view that the proposed development **is not likely** to have a significant effect on the environment in another EEA State.

In reaching this view the Secretary of State has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 12: Transboundary Impacts Consultation); and taken into account the information currently supplied by the Applicant.

Action:

No further action required at this stage

Date:

10 February 2015

Note: The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.

Note:

1. The Secretary of State's screening of transboundary issues is based on the relevant considerations specified in Annex 4 to Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 12 available on the Planning Inspectorate's website at <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>