



Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State	
Project name:	Mynydd y Gwynt Wind Farm
Address/Location:	'Sweet Lamb Rally Complex' at Y Foel, near Llangurig, Powys
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN010020
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening: 24 September 2014 following submission of the application documents
EEA States identified for notification:	First screening: None identified

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	Mynydd Y Gwynt Wind Farm Project Environmental Statement and Appendices Mynydd Y Gwynt Wind Farm Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report
Date	All July 2014
Screening Criteria:	Secretary of State Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The proposed project comprises a wind farm of up to 27 turbines each with a capacity of 3 – 3.3MW. It is expected to take approximately 56 weeks to construct, have an operational life of approximately 25 years, and take approximately 5 months to decommission.</p> <p>The project would consist of the following main elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 turbines up to 80m hub height, with a swept diameter of between 90m and 105m, a maximum blade tip height of 125m, and a base of approximately 17.6m in diameter; • crane pads 40m x 20m at each turbine location; • underground electrical cables connecting each turbine to an electrical substation; • an electrical substation including a 132/33kV transformer and associated equipment required to step up voltage for transmission to the grid; • a control building approximately 18m x 19m x 6.25m high; • widening of approximately 9.5km of existing tracks to achieve a minimum surface width of 5m; • approximately 6.9km of new tracks; and • erection of an 80m high meteorological mast.

<p>Geographical area</p>	<p>The information provided does not identify any potential environmental impacts on any area under the jurisdiction of any other EEA State.</p>
<p>Location of Development (including existing use)</p>	<p>The 584ha site is on the top of a plateau in the northern part of the Cambrian Mountains in Powys, Mid Wales, 8km west of the nearest settlement at Llangurig and 25km west of Aberystwyth.</p> <p>The site is on land which is predominantly in agricultural use but is also used for motorsports and target shooting, and contains access tracks and car parking. It is characterised by farmed upland grassland with some semi-natural vegetation and tracts of peat-based habitats.</p> <p>The site is broadly sandwiched between forest to the north and the south, and bounded by the Wye Valley to the south. It contains a number of small ditches and streams that form tributaries to the River Severn to the north and northeast of the site and to the River Wye to the west and south of the site.</p> <p>The surrounding area is dominated by open moorland inter-dispersed with numerous stream valleys including the sources of the River Wye and River Severn.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify the distance of the project to any other EEA States.</p>
<p>Cumulative impacts</p>	<p>Chapters 8 (Landscape), 9 (Noise), 11 (Ecology), 13 (Transport Assessment), 16 (Socio-economic Impact), and 18 (Conclusion and Summary) include sections on potential cumulative impacts from other operational, consented and planned wind farms in the area. The nearest identified wind farm to the project site is 4.3km to the south (Cefn Croes). No other types of development have been included in the cumulative assessment.</p> <p>The ES concludes that there would be some moderate to substantial residual cumulative effects during the operational phase in relation to landscape and visual matters.</p> <p>None of the identified schemes are located within another EEA State.</p>
<p>Carrier</p>	<p>Potential impact pathways include: creation of new drainage pathways and transport of contaminants, particularly during the construction phase, by air (dust and vehicle emissions and construction activities), land (run-off into peat, accidental spills and leaks) and water, (increased sedimentation of surface and groundwaters); and disturbance to protected species, particularly salmon and otter (construction activities, noise, lighting and increased sedimentation of watercourses) and birds (collision with turbine blades).</p> <p>The ES concludes that following mitigation, including measures contained in the Construction Environmental Management Plan and Surface Water Management Plan, and the micro-siting of</p>

	<p>turbines, there will be no significant residual effects as a result of the potential creation of the above pathways.</p> <p>No potential impact pathways by which another EEA State could be affected have been identified in the ES.</p>
<p>Environmental Importance</p>	<p>The ES identifies that there are 18 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 8 listed buildings, and no conservation areas within the 5km study area from the site boundary.</p> <p>Neither the site nor the local area are covered by any national landscape designations. Snowdonia National Park lies 18km to the north-west of the site and the Brecon Beacons National Park lies 51km to the south of the site.</p> <p>The site is on a Secondary B Aquifer and in Flood Zone 1.</p> <p>The ES identifies that there are three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within 3km of the project site, the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (RWSAC) is less than 100m from the project site, and the Elenydd – Mallaen Special Protection Area (EMSPA)/SAC/SSSI/NNR is 3.4km south west of the project site.</p> <p>The RWSAC is designated for several habitats and species, including White-clawed Crayfish, Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon, Bullhead and Otter. The EMSPA is classified for its breeding populations of Merlin, Red Kite and Peregrine Falcon. The applicant has provided a Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (HRAR), which identifies another two European sites within 10km of the project site. These are the Coedydd Llaur-glyn SAC and the Coedydd a Cheunant Rheidol/ Rheidol Woods and Gorge SAC. However the HRAR states that it is considered that the project is unlikely to have a significant effect on these sites or the EMSAC, and that therefore they have been screened out from further assessment.</p> <p>In addition to the protected species described above, the ES identifies that the project has potential to affect a number of other protected habitats and species, including Golden Plover, Snipe, Curlew, bats, otters and water voles.</p> <p>The ES and HRAR assess the effects of the development on the RWSAC and the EMSPA and the identified protected species, and conclude that following mitigation the project is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European site or protected habitat or species.</p> <p>Neither the ES nor the HRAR identify any European sites belonging to any other EEA State which could potentially be affected.</p>
<p>Extent</p>	<p>At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to have significant effects in another EEA State.</p>

Magnitude	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to have significant effects in another EEA State.
Probability	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to have significant effects in another EEA State.
Duration	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to have significant effects in another EEA State.
Frequency	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to have significant effects in another EEA State.
Reversibility	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to have significant effects in another EEA State.

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: 24 September 2014

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