



Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State	
Project name:	Millbrook Power Project
Address/Location:	The Rookery, Stewartby, Bedfordshire
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN010068
Date screening undertaken:	First screening – 18 September 2014, 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:	Millbrook Power Project Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report
Date of document	June 2014
Screening Criteria:	Secretary of State Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The proposed project comprises a new power generation plant in the form of a simple cycle gas turbine (SCGT) gas fired peaking power generating station, fuelled by natural gas and capable of providing an electrical capacity of up to 299MW.</p> <p>Construction is anticipated to take approximately 22 months and the plant would operate for up to 1,500 hours per year, with an operational life of 25 years after which it would be either decommissioned or repowered.</p> <p>The main components would comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • either 3 – 5 aero-derivative or 1 -2 'industrial type' gas turbine generators, consisting of an inlet air filter, an air compressor, a combustion chamber, power turbine(s), and an exhaust silencer; • up to five stacks, up to 60m high and 10m in diameter; • a new underground gas pipeline to supply natural gas to the generating equipment from the National Transmission System (NTS); • two above ground installations to facilitate connection to the NTS, consisting of a minimum offtake connection facility and a pipeline inspection gauge trap facility; • a new electrical connection via either underground cable or overhead line to export power from the generating equipment to the National Grid Electricity Transmission System (NETS);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new substation and up to two new sealing end compounds, depending on the configuration of the electrical connection, to facilitate connection to the NETS; and • a new access road 1.7km long;
Geographical area	<p>The information provided does not identify any potential environmental impacts on any area under the jurisdiction of any other EEA State.</p>
Location of Development (including existing use)	<p>The project site is located between Milton Keynes and Bedford, within both Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford Borough Council administrative areas.</p> <p>The power generation plant site and part of the gas and electrical connections would be situated on land within two former clay pits ('Rookery South Pit' and 'Rookery North Pit') known as 'The Rookery'. The land around the periphery of Rookery South Pit is predominantly bare ground.</p> <p>The gas and electrical connections would extend out from the Rookery into farmland to the south and/or east of the site. The parts of the gas and electrical connection within the project site that lie outside of Rookery South Pit are located within a mostly undeveloped agricultural landscape, which includes areas of woodland, native hedgerows, and a number of water-bodies such as ditches.</p> <p>Overhead power lines run west to east south of Rookery South Pit and a number of existing public footpaths are located in and around the project site. The project site is entirely within Flood Zone 1. A watercourse, the Mill Brook, flows north along the western side of Rookery South Pit and a tributary watercourse passes to its south.</p> <p>Buildings associated with the former Stewartby Brickworks, including the chimneys, are to the north of The Rookery. The land has been restored and is in different uses, including water based recreation and commercial. The area to the south and east of the project site is made up of large open fields, hedgerows, and groups of trees, and is crossed by electricity pylons.</p> <p>The M1 Motorway is approximately 5.6 km to the south west of the project site, and the Midland Mainline and Marston Vale railway lines border the area of the site containing the power generation plant to the east and west respectively.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify the distance of the project to any other EEA States.</p>
Cumulative impacts	<p>Section 4 of the Scoping Report states that cumulative impacts assessments will be included in each topic chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES). The Report indicates that other</p>

	<p>developments in the vicinity of the site will be considered and provides a list of developments that it is anticipated will be included, which include waste facilities, restoration works to The Rookery, wind energy developments and residential developments.</p> <p>None of the identified schemes are located within another EEA State.</p>
Carrier	<p>Potential impact pathways include transport of contaminants by air (dust, stack and vehicle emissions, construction activities), land and water (rivers and groundwater), and disturbance to protected species (noise, vibration and emissions). However, no potential impact pathways by which another EEA State could be affected have been identified in the Scoping Report.</p>
Environmental Importance	<p>The Scoping Report identifies cultural heritage assets within 5km of the project site, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings (including 219 Grade II), the Ampthill Park Grade II Registered Park and Garden, eight conservation areas, and 49 records of undesignated cultural heritage assets.</p> <p>The Report identifies the presence of 6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 3 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) within a 5km radius of the project site. 'The Rookery' is designated as Rookery Clay Pits County Wildlife Site (CWS). The base of Rookery South Pit, where most elements of the project will be located, includes a range of wetland habitats, including open water, reed beds, pools, and bare inundated clay with ephemeral waterbodies. The Report also identifies 13 Country Wildlife Sites (CWS) within 2km of the project site, the closest of which is Rookery Clay Pit CWS, within which the site is located.</p> <p>The Report states that an extended Phase 1 Habitats Survey has been undertaken and that Phase 2 Protected Species surveys are currently being undertaken in relation to bats, badgers, water voles, breeding birds, great crested newts, reptiles, and terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates. It indicates that reports will be produced following completion of these which will identify likely impacts and potential mitigation measures that may be employed to reduce impacts to an acceptable level.</p> <p>The Report does not identify any European sites. It states that the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment report will be considered in consultation with the relevant Councils, Natural England and PINS, and will draw on the ES Ecology chapter.</p>
Extent	<p>At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to have significant effects in another EEA State.</p>
Magnitude	<p>At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to have significant effects in another EEA State.</p>

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: 18 September 2014

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

SECOND TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING

Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	The Millbrook Power (Gas Fired Power Station) Order Environmental Statement (October 2017) The Millbrook Power Gas Fired Power Station) Order No Significant Effects Report (October 2017)
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Date screening undertaken:	Re-screened on 29 March 2018 following receipt of the application documents
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Transboundary re-screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS

Following submission of the DCO application which included the Environmental Statement and the Applicant's Habitats Regulations Assessment report, the Inspectorate has reconsidered the transboundary screening decision made on 18 September 2014.

The Inspectorate considers that no new matters, outside of those identified in the previous transboundary screening decision, have been identified and therefore the Inspectorate has reached the same conclusion as in the previous screening decision dated 18 September 2014.

The transboundary screening of the Proposed Development has been considered taking into account the transitional provisions in Regulation 37 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations). The

Applicant requested the SoS to adopt a scoping opinion in respect of the development to which the screening relates prior to 16 May 2017 (the date of the commencement of the 2017 EIA Regulations). The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (the 2009 EIA Regulations) are therefore considered to be the applicable EIA Regulations.

Under Regulation 24 of the 2009 EIA Regulations and on the basis of the current information available from the Applicant there is no change to the previous conclusion, and the Inspectorate remains 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 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.

Date: 29 March 2018

Note: The SoS' duty under Regulation 24 of the 2009 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/>