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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 6: Environmental Information

Document 6.2.1: Environmental Statement: Main Report Chapter 1 – Introduction

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nationalgrid

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) accompanies National Grid Electricity Transmission plc's (here on referred to as National Grid) application for development consent to reinforce the transmission network between Bramford Substation in Suffolk, and Twinstead Tee in Essex. The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement ('the project') would be achieved by the construction and operation of a new electricity transmission line over a distance of approximately 29km comprising of overhead lines, underground cables and grid supply point (GSP) substation. It also includes the removal of 25km of the existing distribution network, 2km of the existing transmission network and various ancillary works. The project is located within the administrative boundaries of Suffolk and Essex, as shown on the Location Plan (**application document 2.2**).
- 1.1.2 The project meets the threshold as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as defined under Part 3 of the Planning Act 2008, hence National Grid requires a development consent order (DCO) to develop the project. Some parts of the project, such as the underground cables and the GSP substation, constitute associated development. Further details can be found in the Planning Statement (**application document 7.1**).
- 1.1.3 Work on the project first commenced in 2009. The project was progressed through various stages of options appraisal between 2009 and 2013. Changes to when the planned new generation would come online in East Anglia meant that work was paused at the end of 2013. By 2020, network studies showed that the reinforcement was needed before the end of the decade, and accordingly the project was re-launched. Further details on the history of the project can be found in the Evolution of the Project (**application document 7.2.6**).

The Applicant

- 1.1.4 National Grid holds the Transmission Licence for England and Wales and is thus obligated to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission and to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, as set out in the Electricity Act 1989. National Grid is regulated by Ofgem, which sets price controls and monitors how the company develops and operates the network on behalf of consumers.
- 1.1.5 National Grid owns and operates the national high-voltage electricity transmission system throughout England and Wales. National Grid owns, builds and maintains the electrical transmission infrastructure, including overhead lines, buried cables and substations as a few examples, to allow power to move around the country. The key role of this transmission system is to connect the electricity generators' power stations with regional Distribution Network Operators' equipment who then supply businesses and homes. In return for the connection, users of the transmission network pay a tariff to National Grid. This revenue is then used to maintain, improve and invest in the transmission network.
- 1.1.6 As a licence holder, National Grid has specific duties to uphold in relation to the desirability of preserving amenity of certain aspects of the environment and to mitigate the effects of its activities on the environment under Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Geographical Overview

- 1.1.7 The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is located in the East of England and crosses a county administrative boundary defined by the River Stour, with Suffolk County to the east of the river and Essex County to the west. The project lies within three local planning authority areas: the eastern part of the project lies in Mid Suffolk District (Suffolk); the central parts of the project lie in Babergh District (Suffolk); and the proposed GSP substation and the western part of the project lie in Braintree District (Essex). Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts have a common management structure and share some resources and planning documents. Further details can be found in the Planning Statement (**application document 7.1**).
- 1.1.8 The local area is predominantly rural, with large parts of the land under arable use. Ipswich, the county town of Suffolk, lies approximately 5km to the east of Bramford Substation. The towns of Hadleigh and Sudbury lie approximately 1km and 4km to the north of the project respectively. There are also villages such as Boxford and Leavenheath, as well as a number of hamlets and individual properties within or near to the project.
- 1.1.9 There is an existing 400kV overhead line operated by National Grid between Bramford and Twinstead, which continues on to Braintree and Rayleigh. There is also an existing 132kV overhead line that is operated by the Distribution Network Operator in the east of England, which is UK Power Networks (UKPN). UKPN distributes electricity at lower voltages to industrial, commercial and domestic users.
- 1.1.10 The project crosses parts of the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is designated as an exceptional example of a lowland river valley. The landscape comprises a broadly flat plateau dissected by several river valleys. These give rise to lower-lying valley areas surrounded by areas of higher ground. The river valleys run in a broadly north-west / south-east direction and include the River Brett, River Box and River Stour.
- 1.1.11 The project also cross Hintlesham Woods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This is designated as one of the largest remaining areas of ancient coppice woodland in Suffolk. The project passes close to a number of listed buildings, including the Church of St Mary (Burstall), Hintlesham Hall (Hintlesham), the Parish Church of the Holy Innocents (Lamarsh) and the Parish Church of St Barnabas (Alphamstone) which are all grade I listed.
- 1.1.12 For ease of reference in project documentation, the project was initially split into seven sections, based on the landscape character and feedback from consultation. These were described in the Connection Options Report (**application document 7.2.4**) and assisted in making the gathering, environmental assessment and presentation of environmental information more manageable during the options appraisal. Sections A and B (eastern extent of the project) were subsequently combined as the landscape characteristics were considered similar.
- 1.1.13 The sections presented within the Connection Options Report were:
- Section AB: Bramford Substation/Hintlesham;
 - Section C: Brett Valley;
 - Section D: Polstead;

- Section E: Dedham Vale AONB;
- Section F: Leavenheath/Assington; and
- Section G: Stour Valley.

1.1.14 The ES uses the same geographical sections to describe the project. It also includes Section H: GSP Substation, which has been added to aid the description of the project at this location.

The Need for the Reinforcement

1.1.15 The existing electricity transmission network in East Anglia does not have the capability needed to reliably and securely transport all the energy that will be connected in the future, while working to the required standards.

1.1.16 With new offshore wind generation, a new nuclear power station at Sizewell C and greater interconnection with countries across the North Sea being proposed, there will be a large increase in the amount of renewable and low carbon electricity generation connecting along the East coast.

1.1.17 This increased generation will play a key role in delivering the UK Government's net zero ambitions and delivering up to 50GW of offshore wind connected by 2030. To facilitate these ambitions, electricity network infrastructure is needed to ensure that energy can be transported from where it is generated to where it is used.

1.1.18 Whilst the transmission system in East Anglia has been sufficient until today, it will soon exceed its current capability. This includes its thermal boundary capability (the physical capacity of the circuits to carry power) and transient stability (the ability to accommodate faults without damaging generators or the network).

1.1.19 Increased transmission capability is therefore required in the East Anglia region, to allow National Grid to maintain a robust network, remain in accordance with its licence obligations, and to allow new sources of electricity generation to connect. This is vital to facilitate the ambitious targets set by the Government, for secure, clean and affordable energy for the long term.

1.1.20 Further detail of the need that the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is addressing is set out in the Need Case (**application document 7.2.1**).

1.2 The Project

1.2.1 This section provides a summary of the project. Further details on the key features associated with the project's construction and operation can be found in ES Chapter 4: Project Description (**application document 6.2.4**). The project is shown on ES Figure 4.1: The Project (**application document 6.4**).

Terminology

1.2.2 A DCO is a statutory instrument which grants the beneficiary of the DCO permission to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the authorised development, subject to compliance with Requirements (which are akin to planning conditions). As such, the DCO will include, amongst other things, provisions in relation to: the carrying out of highway works; the temporary stopping-up or diversion of existing public rights of way; the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders; discharging water; the removal and re-

interrment or cremation of human remains; the carrying out of tree works (including those protected by a Tree Preservation Order and important hedgerows); the compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights; the temporary use of land and any other legislative provisions or controls as required in the context of the authorised development. In addition, a DCO may apply, modify or exclude an existing statutory provision where it relates to, or is incompatible with, the authorised development.

- 1.2.3 The application has identified the Order Limits, which include the land required to construct the reinforcement, including the permanent and temporary land take. The Order Limits are shown on the ES Figure 4.1: The Project (**application document 6.4**). The Order Limits replace the Scoping Consultation Boundary that was used when setting out the scope of the environmental assessment in the Scoping Report (**application document 6.5.1**).
- 1.2.4 The ES uses the term 'Proposed Alignment' for describing the route of the proposed reinforcement. The Proposed Alignment has been developed as a result of consultation feedback, engineering design, the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process and landowner discussions. The Proposed Alignment is shown on ES Figure 4.1: The Project (**application document 6.4**). This figure includes the Limits of Deviation (LoD), which represent the maximum locational flexibility for permanent infrastructure. This allows for adjustment to the final positioning of project features to avoid localised constraints or unknown or unforeseeable issues that may arise. The LoD lie within the Order Limits.
- 1.2.5 The permanent components of the project, including pylon locations and the cable alignment, are not fixed and could be located anywhere within the parameters of the LoD, as defined on the Work Plans (**application document 2.5**). The location and orientation of the cable sealing end (CSE) compounds, GSP substation and underground cables may also change within the LoD. This would provide flexibility during detailed design and construction for unforeseen circumstances, such as unsuitable ground conditions or environmental constraints. Further details can be found in ES Chapter 4: Project Description (**application document 6.2.4**).
- 1.2.6 The ES also refers to outages, which are agreed periods of time when a live electricity line can be taken out of service so that works can be safely undertaken to the line. Outages need to be timed for periods of lower electricity demand (usually the summer) and/or when there is spare capacity on other parts of the network to transmit electricity supply. Outages are required where parts of the live electricity lines require works. The outages affect the construction programme, for example, the works around Hintlesham Woods SSSI, where a transposition of the existing 400kV overhead line is required. Further details can be found in Chapter 4: Project Description (**application document 6.2.4**).

Description of the Project Components

- 1.2.7 The reinforcement would comprise approximately 18km of overhead line (consisting of approximately 50 new pylons, and conductors) and 11km of underground cable system (with associated joint bays and above ground link pillars).
- 1.2.8 Four CSE compounds would be required to facilitate the transition between the overhead and underground cable technology. The CSE would be within a fenced compound, and contain electrical equipment, support structures, control building and a permanent access track.

- 1.2.9 Approximately 27km of existing overhead line and associated pylons would be removed as part of the proposals (25km of existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and 2km of the existing 400kV overhead line to the south of Twinstead Tee). To facilitate the overhead line removal, a new GSP substation is required at Butler's Wood, east of Wickham St Paul, in Essex. The GSP substation would include associated works, including replacement pylons, a single circuit sealing end compound and underground cables to tie the substation into the existing 400kV and 132kV networks.
- 1.2.10 Some aspects of the project, such as the underground cable sections and the GSP substation, constitute 'associated development' under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.2.11 Other ancillary activities would be required to facilitate construction and operation of the project, including (but not limited to):
- Modifications to, and realignment of sections of existing overhead lines, including pylons;
 - Temporary land to facilitate construction activities including temporary amendments to the public highway, public rights of way, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, welfare, storage and access;
 - Temporary infrastructure to facilitate construction activities such as amendments to the highway, pylons and overhead line diversions, scaffolding to safeguard existing crossings and watercourse crossings;
 - Diversion of third-party assets and land drainage from the construction and operational footprint; and
 - Land required for mitigation, compensation and enhancement of the environment as a result of the environmental assessment process, and National Grid's commitments to Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 1.2.12 It is assumed that this reinforcement would operate at a voltage of at least 400kV in a similar way to the majority of the existing transmission network. For the purposes of the ES, the new overhead line is referenced as 'proposed 400kV overhead line' to differentiate it from the existing 400kV overhead line and the UKPN owned 132kV overhead line.
- 1.2.13 For a full description of the project reference should be made to ES Chapter 4: Project Description (**application document 6.2.4**).
- 1.2.14 It should be noted that due to wider programme requirements to meet government targets as described in the Need Case (**application document 7.2.1**), National Grid applied for planning permission in April 2022 for the GSP substation under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) from Braintree District Council. National Grid obtained planning consent for the GSP substation under the TCPA in October 2022 (planning application reference 22/01147/FUL).
- 1.2.15 In addition, National Grid has also sought all other necessary consents (including consent pursuant to section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989) for the associated electric line works which are required to be undertaken where the GSP substation is to be constructed pursuant to planning permission granted under the TCPA.
- 1.2.16 Construction at the GSP substation is anticipated to commence in spring 2023 (i.e. prior to DCO consent), with the remaining aspects of the project, including the 132kV overhead

line removal and construction of the new 400kV overhead line and underground cables, commencing in autumn 2024 subject to DCO consent.

- 1.2.17 For completeness, the GSP substation and accompanying electricity line works are included within the DCO application as associated development. Under this scenario, the construction of the GSP substation would commence in 2024 subject to DCO consent. Both scenarios are assessed within the ES and further details can be found in ES Chapter 4: Project Description (**application document 6.2.4**).

1.3 Consenting Requirements

The Planning Act 2008

- 1.3.1 The project includes ‘*the installation of an electric line above ground*’ of a distance greater than 2km which is an NSIP as defined within section 14 (1(b)) of the Planning Act 2008. Under section 31 of the Planning Act 2008, development consent is required to the extent that it is an NSIP, or forms part of an NSIP. Development consent is granted by the making of a DCO, for which an application may be made under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.3.2 Although the DCO is the primary consent, other consents or licenses may need to be applied for outside of the DCO. Details of these are included in Section 2.5: Details of Other Consents and Licences in the Planning Statement (**application document 7.1**).

National Policy Statements

- 1.3.3 National Policy Statements (NPS) EN-1 (Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy) and EN-5 (Electricity Networks), taken together, provide the primary basis for decisions on applications for electricity networks infrastructure, and in turn the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement. NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-5 were considered by Parliament and formally designated in July 2011.
- 1.3.4 On 6 September 2021 the Government began a consultation on the draft replacement NPS. The consultation closed on 29 November 2021. National Grid reviewed the consultation drafts and concluded that the proposed amendments would not alter project decisions. The current adoption date for the revised NPS is anticipated to be during 2023. Therefore, the ES continues to reference the 2011 NPS, as they remain the relevant government policy and as the individual policy wording within the consultation drafts could change prior to designation. Further details on the NPS updates can be found in Section 6.4 and 6.5 of the Planning Statement (**application document 7.1**).
- 1.3.5 Chapter 7 of the Planning Statement (**application document 7.1**) provides an assessment of the project against the requirements of NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-5. Appendix A and B of the Planning Statement provide a compliance assessment against EN-1 and EN-5 respectively. Further information regarding policies and legislation relevant to the assessment of the project can be found in ES Chapter 2: Regulatory and Planning Policy Context (**application document 6.2.2**) and also in Section 2 of each ES topic chapter.

1.4 Purpose and Structure of the Environmental Statement

The Need For An Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.4.1 EIA is required for certain developments (termed ‘EIA development’) under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (‘the EIA Regulations’). Some NSIP always require EIA (the EIA Regulations define these under Schedule 1), while others only require EIA if they are likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of their nature, size or location (the EIA Regulations define these under Schedule 2). The project falls under Paragraph 20 of Schedule 1, which identifies the following project type: ‘*Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220kV or more, and a length of more than 15km*’. The project is therefore EIA development.
- 1.4.2 EIA is the process of compiling, evaluating and presenting information about the likely significant effects, both adverse and beneficial, of a project. The assessment provides decision makers and statutory consultees with the environmental information they require to determine proposals. The early detection of potential significant adverse environmental effects enables appropriate mitigation measures (i.e. measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects) to be identified and incorporated into the design of a project, or commitments to be made to environmentally sensitive construction methods and practices. The approach is iterative and involves close working between those undertaking the EIA and the engineering design.
- 1.4.3 An application for development consent must be submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, and where that development is EIA development, that application must be supported by an ES reporting on the findings of the EIA process; as required by the Planning Act 2008, the EIA Regulations and the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the ‘APFP Regulations’).
- 1.4.4 The EIA for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement was undertaken, managed and compiled by experienced and competent environmental professionals employed by National Grid through their framework of approved specialist suppliers. Professional qualifications and relevant professional memberships of the Environmental Coordinator and the environmental topic leads are provided in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 – List of Author Qualifications

Environmental Topic Leads	Qualifications
Senior EIA reviewer	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc (Hons)), Master of Sciences (MSc), Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), Full Member of the Institute of Environmental Sciences (MIEnvSc)
Environmental Coordinator (Non-Technical Summary and general EIA chapters)	BSc (Hons), MSc, CEnv, Full Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (MIEMA)
Landscape and Visual	Bachelor of Arts with Honours (BA (Hons)), Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA), Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI)
Biodiversity	BSc (Hons), MSc, CEnv, Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM)

Environmental Topic Leads	Qualifications
Historic Environment	BA (Hons), Member of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (MCI(A)
Water Environment	BSc (Hons), MSc, Chartered Water and Environmental Manager (MCIWEM C.WEM)
Geology and Hydrogeology	BSc (Hons), MSc, Chartered Geologist (CGeol), Fellow of the Geological Society (FGS)
Agriculture and Soils	BSc (Joint Hons), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), CEnv, Fellow of the British Society of Soil Science (F.I. SoilSci), MCIEEM
Traffic and Transport	BSc (Hons)
Air Quality	BSc (Hons), CEnv, MIEEnvSc, Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management (MIAQM)
Noise and Vibration	BSc (Hons), Member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA)
Cumulative Effects Assessment	BSc (Hons), MSc, CEnv, MIEMA

Scope of the Environmental Statement

- 1.4.5 National Grid identified that the project had the potential for likely significant effects under the EIA Regulations 2017. The Planning Inspectorate was notified on 10 May 2021 (within the Scoping Report) that National Grid intended to provide an ES in accordance with Regulation 6(1)(b) and 8(1) of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.4.6 A Scoping Report (**application document 6.5.1**) for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 10 May 2021. This set out the parameters of the project, the proposed methodology for undertaking the environmental assessment and the proposed scope proposed of the EIA. It also identified the potentially significant environmental effects (as identified at that time) that would be assessed in more detail (i.e. scoped in), as well as those that were unlikely to be significant and could therefore be scoped out of the assessment.
- 1.4.7 The Planning Inspectorate provided a Scoping Opinion on behalf of the Secretary of State on 18 June 2021 (**application document 6.6**). This included a number of items that National Grid was to consider when producing the ES and the application for development consent. This Scoping Opinion has been taken into account in the preparation of the ES. A summary of all of the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion and where they have been addressed in this ES is provided in ES Appendix 5.1: Scope of the Assessment (**application document 6.3.5.1**).
- 1.4.8 A Preliminary Environmental Information Report was prepared by National Grid as part of the statutory pre-application consultation process required under sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (National Grid, 2022b) was published on 25 January 2022, enabling consultees and interested parties to develop an informed view of the environmental effects of the project and provide comments on that basis. Where relevant to the ES, the consultation comments are summarised in ES Appendix 5.2: Response to Consultation Feedback (**application document 6.3.5.2**) together with an explanation of how the comments have been considered on the project. Further details on the consultation can be found in the Consultation Report (**application document 5.1**).

1.4.9 This ES provides an assessment of the likely significant effects in accordance with the EIA Regulations 2017, which require an ES to discuss only those effects that are likely to be significant. Further details on the EIA process and methodology can be found in ES Chapter 5: EIA Approach and Method (**application document 6.2.5**).

Structure of the Environmental Statement

1.4.10 The ES forms Volume 6.2 of the application. The structure of the ES, along with the other associated documents in Volume 6, is shown in Table 1.2. A glossary of terms and list of abbreviations used throughout the ES can be found in the Glossary and Acronyms (**application document 1.6**) submitted with the application. The references used within the ES can be found in the ES Reference List (**application document 6.2.18**).

Table 1.2 – Contents of Volume 6 of the Application

Application Document	ES Chapter	Document	Content
6.1	N/A	Non-Technical Summary	Summarises in a non-technical language the contents of the ES including the key features of the baseline, the likely significant effects, proposed mitigation and the residual significant effects.
6.2.1	1	Introduction	An introduction to the project and the purpose and structure of the ES.
6.2.2	2	Regulatory and Planning Policy Context	A review of the legislation and policy relevant to the project.
6.2.3	3	Alternatives Considered	A summary of the main alternatives that have been considered on the project including the strategic options, route corridors and detailed alignments.
6.2.4	4	Project Description	A description of the project including permanent features and associated temporary works. It describes the general characteristics of the project and outlines areas of uncertainty in relation to design parameters.
6.2.5	5	EIA Approach and Method	A description of the overall EIA methodology that has been used on the project, including temporal durations and approach to mitigation.
6.2.6	6	Landscape and Visual	Each of the nine ES topic chapters provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction to the topic; • Approach and methods used in the assessment; • A summary of the existing (baseline) environment and a projection of how the baseline is anticipated to change in the future using currently available information; • The findings of the environmental assessment and the likely significant effects; • Proposed mitigation; and • Likely residual effects (with proposed mitigation in place).
6.2.7	7	Biodiversity	
6.2.8	8	Historic Environment	
6.2.9	9	Water Environment	
6.2.10	10	Geology and Hydrogeology	
6.2.11	11	Agriculture and Soils	
6.2.12	12	Traffic and Transport	
6.2.13	13	Air Quality	

Application Document	ES Chapter	Document	Content
6.2.14	14	Noise and Vibration	
6.2.15	15	Cumulative Effects Assessment	A description of the approach to the cumulative effects assessment including the potential for significant environmental effects from different EIA topics on the same receptor group, and potential cumulative effects with the project and other developments.
6.2.16	16	Environmental Management and Mitigation	Outlines how the mitigation and environmental commitments would be secured on the project and provides a summary of the management plans.
6.2.17	17	Conclusion	Provides a summary of the likely significant effects during construction and operation of the project and the proposed mitigation measures.
6.3	N/A	ES Appendices	There are a number of appendices supporting the ES which are provided in Volume 6.3. Each appendix is given a number which is based on the applicable ES chapter that the appendix supports and then the next number in sequence. For example, Appendix 4.1 is the first appendix supporting Chapter 4.
6.4	N/A	ES Figures	The ES figures are provided in Volume 6.4. Each Figure is given a number which is based on the applicable ES chapter that the figure supports and then the next number in sequence. For example, Figure 4.1 is the first figure supporting Chapter 4.
6.5	N/A	Scoping Report	The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement Scoping Report is provided in Volume 6.5. This includes the main report (application document 6.5.1), the appendices (application document 6.5.2) and the figures (application document 6.5.3).
6.6	N/A	Scoping Opinion	The Scoping Opinion produced by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State is presented in application document 6.6 .

Supporting Documents

- 1.4.11 In addition to the EIA, the project has been subject to assessment pursuant to other regulatory regimes, including the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('the Habitats Regulations'). The following documents referenced within the ES have been included in the application for development consent in accordance with planning policy requirements:
- Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (**application document 5.3**);
 - Statement of Statutory Nuisances (**application document 5.4**);
 - Flood Risk Assessment (**application document 5.5**);
 - Water Framework Directive Assessment (**application document 5.6**); and
 - Transport Assessment (**application document 5.7**).

1.5 Transboundary Effects

- 1.5.1 There is a requirement under the EIA Regulations to consider transboundary effects i.e. those effects that could affect receptors within other European Economic Area States. Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 12 (2020b) provides further information on the requirements and sets out how the Secretary of State will meet his or her obligations in this regard.
- 1.5.2 A screening exercise, based on the criteria set out in Annex 1 of Advice Note 12 (long form transboundary screening proforma), was undertaken by National Grid as part of the scoping process. This was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in May 2021 who used this information to undertake a transboundary screening on behalf of the Secretary of State for the purposes of Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations (Planning Inspectorate, 2021b). This concluded that the project '*is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State*'.
- 1.5.3 National Grid has updated the screening exercise in ES Appendix 1.1: Transboundary Supporting Information (**application document 6.3.1.1**). This provides the information required for the Planning Inspectorate to review and update the transboundary screening on behalf of the Secretary of State for the purposes of Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations 2017.

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