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Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement

Volume 6: Environmental Information

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Infrastructure Planning (Applications, Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(a)



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1. Supporting Information

- 1.1.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (here on referred to as National Grid) is making an 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 (18 miles), the majority of which would follow the general alignment of the existing overhead line network.
- 1.1.2 There is a requirement under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2017 to consider transboundary effects on other European Economic Areas (EEA), i.e. those effects that could affect receptors within other countries. A screening exercise was undertaken in Appendix 1.1 of the Scoping Report (**application document 6.5.2**) prepared for the project. No transboundary effects were identified in relation to the project, as there was no pathway for effects to occur outside the UK.
- 1.1.3 The Planning Inspectorate has undertaken the transboundary screening on behalf of the Secretary of State for the purposes of Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations 2017 (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*'. In paragraph 3.3.19 of the Scoping Opinion for the project (**application document 6.6**), the Planning Inspectorate requested that an up-to-date Transboundary Screening Matrix is included within the application for development consent. This is provided in Table 1.1 below and supports the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 1.1.4 The updated screening assessment confirms that there are no transboundary effects in relation to the project, as there is no pathway for effects to occur outside the UK.

Table 1.1 – Transboundary Effects Supporting Information

Criteria and Relevant Considerations	Result of the Screening Considerations
Characteristics of the development: Size of the development Use of natural resources Production of waste Pollution and nuisances Risk of accidents Use of technologies	<p>The Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement is a proposal to consent and build approximately 29km of new electricity transmission line and associated infrastructure between Bramford in Suffolk and Twinstead in Essex. It includes the removal of the existing 132kV overhead line between Burstall Bridge and Twinstead Tee, and a new grid supply point substation at Butler's Wood. It is fully contained within the UK, in the counties of Suffolk and Essex.</p> <p>Some of the resources required for the construction of the project are likely to be obtained from the global market, e.g. steel. It is envisaged that materials would be obtained locally where practicable.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that any waste, nuisances or accidents would extend beyond the border of the UK. No novel technologies are proposed that have potential for transboundary effects.</p>

Criteria and Relevant Considerations	Result of the Screening Considerations
<p>Location of development and geographical area:</p> <p>What is the existing use?</p> <p>What is the distance to another EEA state? (Name EEA state)</p> <p>What is the extent of the area of a likely impact under the jurisdiction of another EEA state?</p>	<p>The existing land use is largely agricultural land with interspersed villages.</p> <p>The location of the project is approximately 130km from France (the closest EEA state).</p> <p>No physical works or impacts are likely to extend beyond the jurisdiction of the UK.</p>
<p>Environmental importance:</p> <p>Are particular environmental values (e.g. protected areas – name them) likely to be affected?</p> <p>Capacity of the natural environment.</p> <p>Wetlands, coastal zones, mountain and forest areas, nature reserves and parks, Natura 2000 sites, areas where environmental quality standards already exceeded, densely populated areas, landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.</p>	<p>There are no European designated sites within 2km of the project. There are two European sites comprising Ramsar and Special Protection Area designations within 10km of the project. These are primarily designated for a range of breeding and overwintering bird populations.</p> <p>A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report (application document 5.3) has been undertaken in accordance with Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This has determined that the project is unlikely to significantly affect any European site.</p> <p>The project crosses the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is designated for its national (rather than international) landscape quality and cultural associations. The project has committed to using underground cables within the AONB boundary to reduce the impact on the landscape and to reinstating landscape features where practicable.</p> <p>The project would result in localised impacts to landscape, cultural heritage (including archaeology), soils, adjacent landowners and residents, biodiversity (including protected species), and the water environment. These impacts have been mitigated to avoid or reduce the significance of effect. Further details can be found in the ES (Volume 6 of the application). Pre and post mitigation, the effects would be contained to the local environment in Suffolk and Essex and would not result in impacts to any other EEA state.</p>
<p>Potential impacts and carrier:</p> <p>By what means could impacts be spread (i.e. what pathways)?</p>	<p>The pathways by which impacts could be spread are via air and water (such as rivers). However, none of the anticipated effects are likely to impact another EEA state.</p>
<p>Extent:</p> <p>What is the likely extent of the impact (geographical area and size of the affected population)?</p>	<p>The extent of the impacts would vary for different EIA topics. However, no significant effects are anticipated that could impact on another EEA state.</p>
<p>Magnitude:</p> <p>What will the likely magnitude of the change in relevant variables be relative to the status quo, taking into account the sensitivity of the variable?</p>	<p>The magnitude of change would vary for different EIA topics. However, none of the anticipated effects is likely to occur at a magnitude that could impact another EEA state.</p>

Criteria and Relevant Considerations	Result of the Screening Considerations
<p>Probability: What is the degree of probability of the impact? Is the impact likely to occur as a consequence of normal conditions or exceptional situations such as accidents?</p>	<p>It is very unlikely that effects from the project would impact on another EEA state during either normal conditions or exceptional situations such as accidents.</p>
<p>Duration: Is the impact likely to be temporary, short-term or long-term? Is the impact likely to relate to the construction, operation or decommissioning phase of the activity?</p>	<p>No significant effects are anticipated that could impact on another EEA state.</p>
<p>Frequency: What is likely to be the temporal pattern of the impact?</p>	<p>No significant effects are anticipated that could impact on another EEA state.</p>
<p>Reversibility: Is the impact likely to be reversible or irreversible?</p>	<p>No significant effects are anticipated that could impact on another EEA state.</p>
<p>Cumulative impacts: Are other major developments close by?</p>	<p>There are a number of other proposed developments within 10km of the Order Limits, as described in ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15). These include proposed other National Grid projects, such as East Anglia GREEN, and housing developments to the east of Hadleigh and east of Sudbury. The potential cumulative effects are assessed within ES Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects Assessment (application document 6.2.15) and no significant effects are anticipated that could impact on another EEA state.</p>

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