



Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State	
Project name:	Mid Wales Electricity Connection (National Grid)
Address/Location:	Powys/Shropshire Electrical connection: approximately 54km between Cefn Coch and Lower Frankton Substation: 1 km north of the Carno to Llanfair Caereinion Lane
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN020010
Date screening undertaken:	First screening – 4 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:	Mid Wales Connection Project Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report
Date of document(s)	May 2014
Screening Criteria:	Secretary of State Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The project comprises a new substation and a new 400 kV connection 54km long between the new substation and the existing 400kV National Electricity Transmission System. Construction is expected to take nearly three years and all the components would have a design life of 40 years.</p> <p>The project is comprised of the following main components:</p> <p>Connection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approximately 41km of overhead line; • approximately 112 pylons, 50m (steel lattice) or 39m (T-pylon) tall; • approximately 13km of underground cabling in 700m cable lengths; • two sealing end compounds (where the connection changes from overhead line to underground cable, and vice versa), each with a footprint of approximately 70m x 40m; • tee-in to an existing 400kV overhead line; and • proposed works to an existing substation. <p>Substation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new 400kV substation occupying an area of approximately 6ha; • up to five 132/400kV supergrid transformers, each

	<p>approximately 10.5m high; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new 132kV substation adjacent to the 400kV substation into which the 132kV wind generator circuits would connect.
Geographical area	The information provided does not identify any potential environmental impacts on any area under the jurisdiction of any other EEA State.
Location of Development (including existing use)	<p>The 6ha proposed substation site occupies a remote rural location in Powys and is comprised of large open fields of semi-improved grazed pastures.</p> <p>The proposed 54km connection route runs through Powys and Shropshire, and passes through a number of rural sparsely populated areas, across both agricultural land and roads and rivers, and through woodland.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify the distance of the project to any other EEA States.</p>
Cumulative impacts	<p>The Scoping Report indicates that other types of plans and projects in the area that will be considered in the Environmental Statement (ES) include existing and consented windfarms, overhead lines and non-wind related developments, and windfarms, overhead lines and non-wind related developments at application stage. None of the identified schemes are located within another EEA State.</p> <p>The Scoping Report identifies that the Landscape and Visual, Ecology and Biodiversity, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Traffic and Transportation and Socio-economics chapters of the ES will include a section on cumulative impacts.</p>
Carrier	Potential impact pathways include transport of contaminants by air (dust, 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.
Environmental Importance	<p>The Scoping Report identifies that there are 46 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, nine Conservation Areas, 33 Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings, 459 Grade II Listed Buildings, two Registered Parks and Gardens, and 11,966 undesignated assets located within a 3km study area either side of the proposed route.</p> <p>The Scoping Report identifies two SSSIs within the proposed 100m-wide route corridor. These are Ffridd Mathrafal Track Section SSSI (designated for its geological interest) and Montgomery Canal SSSI (designated for its diverse assemblage of plants and invertebrates). There are a further fifteen SSSIs within 2km of the proposed route corridor.</p>

	<p>The Scoping Report identifies three European sites in close proximity to the proposed development. These are: the Montgomery Canal SAC (designated for the presence of floating water plantain, an Annex II species, and which crosses the proposed route corridor); the Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat SAC (designated for the presence of lesser horseshoe bat maternity and hibernation sites, and parts of which are located within 0.25km of the project); and the Midland Meres and Mosses Ramsar site (designated for its lowland open water and peat land, and part of which is within 2km of the proposed route corridor).</p> <p>The Scoping Report states that where possible significant ecological impacts have been avoided by design, such as routing of the connection to avoid direct and indirect effects on the European sites. It indicates that where this will not be possible, suitable mitigation measures will be included to ensure that residual effects are not significant. In relation to the European sites, mitigation measures will be discussed with NRW and NE, and could include construction works timing constraints and sensitive working practices to avoid pollution.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify any European sites belonging to any other EEA State which could potentially be affected.</p>
Extent	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to affect another EEA State.
Magnitude	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to affect another EEA State.
Probability	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to affect another EEA State.
Duration	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to affect another EEA State.
Frequency	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to affect another EEA State.
Reversibility	At this stage, no impacts have been identified which would be likely to affect another EEA State.
<p><u>Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	

Consultation), and taken into account the information currently supplied by the Applicant.

Action: No further action required at this stage.

Date: 4 September 2014

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/>