



<b>Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State</b>	
<b>Project name:</b>	North Wales Connection
<b>Address/Location:</b>	Anglesey and Gwynedd, Wales
<b>Planning Inspectorate Ref:</b>	EN020015
<b>Date(s) screening undertaken:</b>	First Screening - 10 October 2016 following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion Second screening – 6 November 2018 following the submission of the application documents on 7 September 2018 and the Secretary of State's decision to accept the application for examination on 4 October 2018.
<b>EEA States identified for notification:</b>	First screening: None identified Second screening: None identified

<b>FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE</b>	
<b>Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:</b>	North Wales Connection Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (May 2016) ('the Scoping Report')
<b>Date</b>	10 October 2016
<b>Screening Criteria:</b>	<b>Secretary of State Comments:</b>
<b>Characteristics of the Development</b>	<p>The proposed development is for a new 400 kilovolt (kV) connection between an existing substation at Wylfa on Anglesey and an existing National Grid substation at Pentir in Gwynedd.</p> <p>In summary, the proposed development would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction of approximately 30km of 400kV transmission line between Wylfa and Pentir, comprising primarily overhead lines on pylons but also including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- underground cables (locations have not been identified) installed by either direct burial/trenching, horizontal directional drilling (HDD), a cable tunnel or pipe jacking/micro-tunnelling;</li> <li>- crossing the Menai Strait - the options described in paragraph 2.6.8 of the Scoping Report are going under the Strait or integrating cable into the deck of the Britannia Bridge;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• sealing end compounds (SECs) to provide the point of connection between overhead lines and underground</li> </ul>

	<p>cables, each approximately 70m x 40m with a terminal overhead line pylon approximately 13m high, a control room and a permanent access road;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two tunnel head houses (if a tunnel option is used for crossing the Menai Strait) each approximately 20m x 20m and 7m high with a permanent access road;</li> <li>• upgrade works at the existing Wylfa substation and an extension to the existing substation at Pentir; and</li> <li>• enabling works, including laydown areas, construction compounds and highway works.</li> </ul> <p>The precise route of the electrical connection and the exact locations of all infrastructure elements have not yet been determined. The Scoping Study Area, as illustrated on Figure 2.1, encompasses all potential route options, search areas for SECs, cable crossing options, land to be used for construction accesses, laydown areas and construction compounds.</p> <p>Construction is anticipated to commence in 2019 and be completed by 2025.</p>
<b>Geographical area</b>	The proposed development will not extend into any other EEA State.
<b>Location of Development (including existing use)</b>	<p>The proposed development would be located within Anglesey and Gwynedd in Wales, as shown on Figure 2.1 of the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The application site is predominantly rural and encompasses a number of small settlements and individual houses/farmhouses, as well as a number of roads, watercourses, drains and ponds. The Scoping Study Area broadens at the southern end where it crosses the Menai Strait. Here, it encompasses larger settlements; a railway; and a number of roads including the A55, the Menai Bridge and the Britannia Bridge.</p>
<b>Cumulative impacts</b>	Table 4.6 of the Scoping Report identifies other major projects to be considered in the inter-project cumulative effects assessment. Each of the topic chapters of the Scoping Report refers to cumulative impacts being assessed within the ES.
<b>Carrier</b>	The most likely carrier of transboundary effects is impacts to bird populations associated with the European Sites via noise and/or visual disturbance; pollution to water/land; and collision risk.
<b>Environmental Importance</b>	<p>The Scoping Report identifies the following designated sites as being located within the Scoping Study Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tre'r Gof Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);</li> <li>• Llyn Alaw SSSI;</li> <li>• Corsydd Môn a Llyn / Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar site;</li> <li>• Corsydd Mon / Anglesey Fens Special Area of Conservation (SAC);</li> <li>• Cors Erddreiniog SSSI;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cors Erddreiniog National Nature Reserve (NNR);</li> <li>• Caeau Talwrn SSSI;</li> <li>• Coedydd Afon Menai SSSI;</li> <li>• Glannau Porthaethwy SSSI;</li> <li>• Y Fenai a Bae Conwy / Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC; and</li> <li>• Sgistiau Glas Ynys Mon SSSI (geological).</li> </ul> <p>Within the Scoping Corridor there are 25 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), 223 Listed Buildings (four Grade I, 17 Grade II*, and 202 Grade II), two Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs), four Conservation Areas, one Designated Wreck Site, one Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (LoHI), and 651 non-designated heritage assets.</p> <p>The Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) overlaps (by approximately 500m) the eastern edge of the Scoping Study Area.</p>
<b>Extent</b>	<p>The Scoping Report does not explicitly state whether the proposed development is likely to have significant impacts on another European Economic Area (EEA) State.</p> <p>However, paragraph 6.7.2 of the Scoping Report states that <i>"Where possible, the Proposed Project design will seek to avoid any Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European designated sites."</i></p>
<b>Magnitude</b>	No potential impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Probability</b>	No potential impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Duration</b>	No potential impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Frequency</b>	No potential impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Reversibility</b>	No potential impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<p><b><u>Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State</u></b></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 <b>is not likely</b> 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 Consultation); and taken into account the information currently supplied by the applicant.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> No further action required at this stage</p> <p><b>Date</b> 10 October 2016</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p>	

<b>SECOND TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING</b>	
<b>Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:</b>	National Grid (North Wales Connection Project) Environmental Statement (ES) September 2018 and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report September 2018
<b>Date screening undertaken:</b>	Re-screened on 6 November 2018 following the submission of the application documents on 7 September 2018 and the Secretary of State's decision to accept the application for examination on 4 October 2018

### **Transboundary re-screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS**

Following submission of the DCO application, which included the ES and the Applicant's HRA report, the Inspectorate has reconsidered the transboundary screening decision made on 10 October 2016.

The Inspectorate notes that the following changes have been made to the Proposed Development since the previous transboundary screening decision.

#### **Project description**

The design of the Proposed Development has been refined since the Scoping Report was submitted. The Scoping Report described the construction and operation of approximately 30km of 400kV transmission line between Wylfa and Pentir substation. This would primarily comprise overhead lines (OHL) on pylons, with the Menai Strait crossed either underground or by integrating cable into the deck of the Britannia Bridge. The Scoping Report also identified the need for cable sealing end compounds (CSECs) to provide the points of connection between OHLs and underground cables, but did not specify their locations.

The ES now clarifies that the Proposed Development would comprise a new 400kV OHL between Wylfa substation and Braint Tunnel Head House (THH) and CSEC; a tunnel between Braint and Tŷ Fodol THHs (crossing the Menai Strait); and a new section of 400kV OHL from Tŷ Fodol THH and CSEC to Pentir Substation.

#### **Environmental Importance**

The Scoping Study Area encompassed a larger area than the Order Limits included in the DCO application. Therefore, Glynllifon SAC - which was previously identified as a potential sensitive receptor - has now been discounted as a receptor in the ES.

There are three tunnel construction scenarios considered in the ES (Chapter 9 Ecology and Nature Conservation). The potential for underwater construction phase noise and vibration impacts to marine species is identified within the ES. Construction noise modelling from tunnelling operations has been carried out (detailed in Construction Underwater Noise Report (Document 5.9.2.18) and forms the basis of the underwater noise and vibration assessment which is discussed in the ES (Chapter 9 Ecology and Nature Conservation).

No transboundary effects have been identified as stated at paragraph 3.7.1 of the ES.

#### **Conclusion**

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:** 6 November 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/>