



<b>Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State</b>	
<b>Project name:</b>	Triton Knoll Electrical System (TKES)
<b>Address/Location:</b>	From the previously consented Triton Knoll Offshore Windfarm (TKOWF) array located 33km off the Lincolnshire Coast, to the grid connection point at National Grid's Bicker Fen substation near Boston, Lincolnshire.
<b>Planning Inspectorate Ref:</b>	EN020019
<b>Date(s) screening undertaken:</b>	First screening – 10 June 2014 following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion Second screening – 1 September 2015 following acceptance of the application for examination
<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>	Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Electrical System Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report March 2014 ('the Scoping Report') including Appendix 3.2: Transboundary Impacts Screening Note  Natural England's report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out proposals to extend the existing Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs Special Protection Area (SPA). The proposed site would be renamed the Flamborough and Filey Coast potential SPA (pSPA).
<b>Date</b>	10 June 2014
<b>Screening Criteria:</b>	<b>Secretary of State Comments:</b>
<b>Characteristics of the Development</b>	<p>Chapter 2 of the Scoping Report identifies the key components of the proposed development which comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to four offshore substation platforms (OSPs) including interconnecting high voltage alternative current (HVAC) export circuits (up to 220 kV)</li> <li>• Up to six offshore buried export cable circuits; where burial is not possible cable protection will be used</li> <li>• Transition joint bays and landfall infrastructure just north of Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire</li> <li>• Up to six onshore HVAC export cable circuits (up to 220kV) from the landfall to the substation near Bicker Fen via Intermediate Electrical Compounds (IECs)</li> <li>• Up to two IECs at one location near Orby Marsh</li> <li>• Up to two substations at one location (near the existing Bicker Fen NGET substation, Lincolnshire); and</li> <li>• Up to four onshore HVAC export cable circuits (up to 400kV) from the substation(s) to the existing National Grid substation at Bicker Fen, Boston.</li> </ul> <p>The overall cable length required is approximately 110km with 60km onshore and 50km offshore.</p> <p>A construction start date has not been provided in the Scoping</p>

	<p>Report. The proposed development may be constructed as one or two projects. If two projects are constructed and are not concurrent then it is anticipated there would be a maximum start-to-start construction period of up to five years between each project. The total construction period has not been stated in the Scoping Report but indicative construction periods for each component (for two sequential projects) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offshore export cabling – up to 16 months</li> <li>• Landfall - up to 15 months</li> <li>• Onshore export cabling - up to 72 months</li> <li>• IEC - up to 69 months</li> <li>• Substation - up to 84 months</li> </ul> <p>The Scoping Report states the total construction period would not be the sum of all components as some activities may overlap.</p>
<b>Geographical area</b>	<p>The information provided does not identify any potential environmental impacts on any area under the jurisdiction of any other EEA State.</p>
<b>Location of Development (including existing use)</b>	<p>The proposed development would comprise an electrical connection from the previously consented TKOWF array located 33km off the Lincolnshire Coast, to the grid connection point at National Grid's Bicker Fen substation near Boston, Lincolnshire.</p> <p>The offshore cable corridor would be a maximum width of 1100m along the majority of the route widening to a maximum of 8000m as it approaches the array. The exact route of the cable corridor and the locations of the OSPs have not yet been defined. Some of the offshore area identified in the Scoping Report is currently used for fishing, shipping and recreational sailing; in addition there are a number of existing pipelines. Aggregate dredging, oil and gas exploration, MoD activities and other windfarms are close.</p> <p>The onshore cable corridor for scoping purposes is 500m wide; this will be refined to approximately 60m wide for the DCO application. The onshore site is currently primarily in agricultural use with widely dispersed farmsteads and dwellings.</p> <p>The distances to neighbouring European Economic Zones (EEZ) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Netherlands – 131km</li> <li>• France – 221km</li> <li>• Belgium – 199km</li> <li>• Germany – 292km</li> <li>• Denmark – 317km</li> </ul>
<b>Cumulative impacts</b>	<p>Appendix 3.1 of the Scoping Report contains a list of the projects the applicant will consider in their cumulative impact assessment. This includes the following types of projects that have been identified as having the potential to give rise to cumulative impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• marine aggregate dredging, and disposal (marine</li> </ul>

	<p>consents)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• renewables (offshore wind, including the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm)</li> <li>• onshore infrastructure including wind turbines, overhead line, solar park and coastal defence works</li> <li>• oil and gas developments</li> <li>• offshore designations; and</li> <li>• military practice areas.</li> </ul> <p>No cumulative impacts with developments in other EEA states have been identified.</p>
<b>Carrier</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance and displacement by water e.g. to fishing activities, navigation routes and to mobile species associated with designated sites belonging to other EEA states.</li> <li>• Disturbance and displacement by air e.g. to mobile species associated with designated sites belonging to other EEA states.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Importance</b>	<p><u>European Sites</u> The following European sites are located over 5.5km (at its closest point) from the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</li> <li>• The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC, Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar</li> <li>• The Humber Estuary SPA</li> <li>• Gibraltar Point SPA</li> <li>• The Wash SPA</li> <li>• North Norfolk Coastal SPA</li> <li>• Hornsea Mere SPA</li> <li>• Flamborough Head to Bempton Cliffs SPA<sup>1</sup></li> </ul> <p>No European sites in other EEA states have been identified in the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The northern part of the Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge Site of Community Importance (SCI) overlaps the offshore site. The SCI has two benthic features as a primary reason for designation (<i>Sabellaria spinulosa</i> reef and subtidal sandbanks).</p> <p><u>Bird Species</u> Sandwich Tern from the North Norfolk Coast SPA, fulmar from Hunstanton Cliffs SSSI, little gull from Hornsea Mere SPA, and gannet, guillemot and puffin from the Flamborough Head to</p>

<sup>1</sup> Although not addressed in the Applicant's scoping report, in July 2013, Natural England have submitted a report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out proposals to extend the existing Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs Special Protection Area (SPA), to ensure that the breeding seabirds of the SPA are protected by its boundary, and a list of classified features. The proposed site would be renamed the Flamborough and Filey Coast potential SPA (pSPA). The pSPA includes a proposed terrestrial extension running from the cliffs at Filey Brigg to Cunstone Nab in the west.

	<p>Bempton Cliffs SPA<sup>i</sup> occur within the offshore site.</p> <p><u>Marine Mammals</u>  Porpoise, grey seal (a qualifying feature of the Humber Estuary SAC) and harbour seal (the primary reason for the selection of the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC) are all present in and around the site. The nearest seal breeding colony is 14km south of the proposed development and the landfall is a sandy, narrow beach unlikely to be used as a haul out area.</p> <p>Porpoise occur at relatively low densities. Grey seal tagging data shows that although some individuals occasionally traverse the offshore site, the vast majority of tracks did not. Harbour seal tagging data shows a large number of tracks traverse the offshore site, particularly near to the TKOWF site, and tracks nearer to the shore were limited.</p> <p><u>Commercial Fisheries &amp; Commercial Vessels</u>  There are a number of commercial shipping routes around the offshore site, including two which cross the export cable corridor. The majority of traffic is bound to/from the Humber ports. Shipping operators from other EEA States identified as travelling through or close to the array area include those from Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Germany, Belgium, France and Norway.</p> <p>The distribution of non-UK fishing effort is predominantly to the east/north-east of the array area. No non-UK vessels have been recorded fishing within the array portion of the site. French trawlers occasionally fish within the Silver Pit just to the west-north-west of the array area and transit within the export cable corridor. Belgian beam trawling activity has been identified at a low level close to the export cable corridor, and Dutch beam trawling occurs within the wider vicinity at low intensity.</p>
<p><b>Extent</b></p>	<p><u>Onshore</u>  No potential impacts have been identified that are likely to extend to other EEA States.</p> <p><u>Marine Mammals</u>  Direct impacts during construction (e.g. collision with, or entrainment in, ducted propellers of construction vessels) would be localised to the site. Temporary displacement of marine mammals and impacts upon their prey species resulting from increased suspended sediment would extend a few kilometres from the proposed development.</p> <p>The extent of potential displacement from piling of offshore substation platforms has not been addressed within the Scoping Report but is unlikely to extend to other EEA States.</p> <p><u>Commercial Fisheries &amp; Commercial Vessels</u>  Increased suspended sediment has the potential to result in temporary displacement of fish and would extend a few kilometres from the proposed development. The extent of potential displacement of fish from piling of offshore substation</p>

	<p>platforms has not been addressed within the Scoping Report but is unlikely to extend to other EEA states.</p> <p>Shipping and navigation impacts to commercial vessels would be limited to the cable corridor and offshore array. Exclusion zones would be employed during construction; their extent is not defined in the Scoping Report but is unlikely to extend to other EEA States. However, the affected areas form part of important fishing areas to fleets from other EEA states. The percentage of the areas affected is not provided within the Scoping Report but is unlikely to significantly affect other EEA states.</p> <p><u>European Sites &amp; Bird Species</u> Impacts from increased suspended sediment will extend a few kilometres from the proposed development. The extent of disturbance impacts to bird species would be confined to the proposed development boundary where construction activities take place. The extent of potential displacement has not been addressed within the Scoping Report but is unlikely to extend to other EEA states.</p>
<p><b>Magnitude</b></p>	<p><u>Marine Mammals</u> The noise impacts of piling of the offshore substation platforms would be mitigated with a marine mammal mitigation plan. No population effects are considered likely and impacts are likely to be low magnitude.</p> <p><u>Commercial Fisheries &amp; Commercial Vessels</u> Any deviation in course for commercial and fishing vessels during cable laying and as a result of the presence of offshore substation platforms would be only a small proportion of the overall passage distance and time for these vessels.</p> <p>The Scoping Report states that the magnitude of impact on commercial fisheries would be low given the mobile nature of commercial fishing fleets.</p> <p>Cable protection measures would be used where cable burial is not possible which could present a snagging risk to fisheries during the operational phase; the exact area to be affected has not yet been determined.</p> <p><u>European Sites &amp; Bird Species</u> Noise and disturbance impacts during construction from cable laying activities and increased boat traffic would be localised.</p>
<p><b>Probability</b></p>	<p><u>Marine Mammals</u> Marine mammals are highly mobile and able to forage over a wide area. The environmental importance of the affected area is low for marine mammals. The probability of significantly affecting marine mammals in other EEA States is also low.</p> <p><u>Commercial Fisheries &amp; Commercial Vessels</u> The probability of significant impacts occurring is low due to the limited use of the area by non-UK vessels and fisheries, the availability of other fishing grounds in the vicinity and the</p>

	<p>proposed mitigation measures (e.g. Notices to Mariners and promulgation on charts). It is noted that a large proportion of the export cabling will lie within the 6 and 12 nm limits where fishing by non-UK vessels is not permitted or is restricted by historic rights.</p> <p>Operators from Finland, Denmark, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Germany, Belgium, France and Norway were all consulted by the applicant for the Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm (TKOWF) and no responses were received. Belgium, France, and the Netherlands were notified under Regulation 24 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended) by the Secretary of State for TKOWF Replies were received from the Dutch and Belgian governments. The Dutch Government indicated that they did not wish to participate further in the application whilst the Belgian Government indicated that they wished to have the opportunity to participate in the application procedure but did not raise issues during examination.</p> <p><u>European Sites &amp; Bird Species</u> Having regard to the environmental importance of the site and the magnitude of likely impacts it is unlikely that significant effects on European Sites and Bird Species another EEA state will occur.</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p><u>Marine Mammals</u> Impacts would be limited to the construction phase of the offshore export cabling (up to 16 months).</p> <p><u>Commercial Fisheries &amp; Commercial Vessels</u> The majority of impacts on fish would be limited to the construction phase of the offshore export cabling (up to 16 months).</p> <p>Safety exclusion zones have the potential to impact on commercial fisheries and commercial vessels however these will only be employed during construction of the offshore export cabling (up to 16 months).</p> <p>Operational impacts on commercial fisheries and commercial vessels (i.e. collision risk and snagging risk) would be long term.</p> <p><u>European Sites &amp; Bird Species</u> Impacts would be limited to the construction phase (see above for durations).</p>
<p><b>Frequency</b></p>	<p><u>Marine Mammals</u> Impacts are likely to be continuous during the construction phase only.</p> <p><u>Commercial Fisheries &amp; Commercial Vessels</u> Impacts are likely to be continuous during the construction phase. Operational impacts on commercial fisheries and commercial vessels (i.e. collision risk and snagging risk) would be continuous.</p>

	<p><u>European Sites &amp; Bird Species</u> Impacts are likely to be continuous during the construction phase only.</p>
<p><b>Reversibility</b></p>	<p><u>Marine Mammals</u> Suspended sediment and noise levels will return to baseline levels upon completion of construction.</p> <p><u>Commercial Fisheries &amp; Commercial Vessels</u> Impacts on fish would be reversible as suspended sediment and noise levels will return to baseline levels after the completion of construction.</p> <p>Construction phase impacts (e.g. suspended sediment, increased noise levels and exclusion zones) would return to baseline levels after the completion of construction.</p> <p>There is the potential for cable protection to present a continuous and long term snagging risk to fisheries and vessels during the operational phase.</p> <p>The offshore substation platforms would be a long term feature during operation. If the offshore substation platform foundations are not removed at the end of the operational phase there may be permanent impacts.</p> <p><u>European Sites &amp; Bird Species</u> Noise levels will return to baseline levels after the completion of construction. Disturbance and displacement resulting from construction vessels is reversible.</p>
<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 June 2014</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p>	

## SECOND TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

<b>Document used for transboundary Screening:</b>	Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm Electrical System Environmental Statement April 2015.
<b>Date</b>	Re-screened on 1 September 2015 on receipt of the application documents.

### **Transboundary re-screening undertaken by the Secretary of State**

Following submission of the DCO application which included the Environmental Statement, the Secretary of State has reconsidered the transboundary screening decision undertaken on 10 June 2014.

The ES chapters state that following completion of a transboundary matrix and in agreement with PINS it is considered that the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment in another EEA state and therefore no assessment of transboundary impacts has been carried out by the applicant.

### **Further information provided regarding the description of the proposed development and the construction timeframe**

The Secretary of State has identified the following matters that differ from those considered at the time of the previous transboundary screening decision:

- updated information regarding the description of the project
- updated information regarding the likely construction timeframes

#### Description of the project

The ES provides new information regarding the nature of the proposed works. ES Volume 1 Chapter 1: Introduction confirms that the proposal will now be progressed in one single project.

The following revisions have also been made to the proposed development:

- The offshore substation platforms that were included in the project description of the Scoping Report have been removed from the project description within the ES
- The ES confirms that only one Intermediate Electrical Compound and one Substation will now be required
- The overview of project details includes "Unlicensed Works" which were not included within the Scoping Report. These include the erection and installation of relevant equipment within the footprint of the existing National Grid Substation to facilitate connection to the National Grid.

#### Construction period

- The ES confirms that the anticipated start date for the onshore works will be 2017 with completion anticipated in 2023.
- Offshore works are expected to start in 2018, installation is expected to take approximately 12 months, spread across a 2 year period. Most of the offshore work will take place during the summer months where conditions are relatively calm

however some works may take place throughout the year.

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, there is no change to the previous conclusion, and the Secretary of State 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 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

The first screening identified that the proposed development **is not likely** to have a significant effect on the environment in another EEA State. No new EEA States have been identified as being likely to have significant effect on their environment.

**Date:** 1 September 2015

**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/>
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