



Transboundary screening undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS)	
Project name:	Proposed Reinforcement to North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network
Address/Location:	Oswestry to Wem, Shropshire
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN020021
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – 10 July 2017 following the Applicant’s request for a scoping opinion.
EEA States identified for notification:	First screening: None identified.

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE INSPECTORATE ON BEHALF OF THE SOS	
Document used for transboundary Screening	Reinforcement to North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network: 132kV Wood Pole Overhead Line from Oswestry to Wem ('the Scoping Report') (March 2017)
Screening Criteria	The Inspectorate’s Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The Proposed Development includes the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 132kV single circuit overhead line approximately 20.5km long, supported on single and double Trident wood poles with an above ground height of approximately 12m and an average 130m span length between poles; • two construction compounds/storage areas; and • approximately 22 temporary/permanent site access tracks. <p>At the time of drafting the Scoping Report the construction programme was not yet known. However, the Scoping Report states that it is anticipated that each wood pole structure is likely to be constructed in a single operation within the same day, and that upgrading and construction of access tracks to pole locations will typically be completed at a rate of 50m/day.</p>
Geographical area	No information is provided in the Scoping Report on any areas which could be affected which are under the jurisdiction of another EEA State.
Location of Development	The Proposed Development would be located in the North of Shropshire between Oswestry and Wem, wholly within

(including existing use)	<p>Shropshire County Council’s administrative area. The site of the Proposed Development and the surrounding area comprise an undulating landscape with a variety of land types and uses, including farmland, villages, hamlets, woodland and low lying floodplains.</p> <p>The proposed route would cross or pass under or near a number of features including: the Shrewsbury to Crewe railway line; a number of ‘A’, ‘B’ and minor roads; and a number of watercourses, including the Montgomery Canal, the River Roden, the River Perry, and the Sleaf and other brooks.</p>
Cumulative impacts	<p>Chapter 18 of the Scoping Report sets out the Applicant’s proposed approach to the cumulative effects assessment (CEA). The Applicant has differentiated between in-combination cumulative effects and inter-project cumulative effects.</p> <p>The Applicant has identified in Chapter 18 the National Grid Mid Wales Connection Project as a development which may be considered in the CEA. It is a 400kV line between Cefn Coch in Powys and Lower Frankton in Shropshire, the route of which would cross the Proposed Development route east of Babbinswood.</p> <p>The CEA has not yet been undertaken. The Applicant has not identified any cumulative likely significant effects (LSE) at this stage.</p>
Carrier	<p>Potential impact pathways include air, water and land.</p> <p>Watercourses within the study area include the River Perry, the River Roden and the Montgomery Canal. The Scoping Report also identifies that the route of the Proposed Development passes through a groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) associated with a public water supply, and that there are other SPZs close to the route. There are surface and groundwater abstraction points in the Rivers Perry and Roden.</p>
Environmental Importance	<p>It is stated that the Midlands Meres and Mosses Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site are approximately 2km to the north of the Proposed Development.</p>
Extent	<p>No impacts have been identified at this time which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.</p>
Magnitude	<p>No impacts have been identified at this time which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.</p>
Probability	<p>No impacts have been identified at this time which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.</p>

Duration	No impacts have been identified at this time which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
Frequency	No impacts have been identified at this time which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.
Reversibility	No impacts have been identified at this time which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.

Transboundary screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS

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 Secretary of State 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, the Inspectorate is 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 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.

Date: 10 July 2017

Note: The Secretary of State's 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 Annex 4 to the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 12, available on our website at <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

SECOND TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	Environmental Statement Habitats Regulations Assessment No Significant Effects Report
Date screening undertaken:	Re-screened on 29 th January 2019 following receipt of application documents
<p>Transboundary re-screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS</p> <p>Following submission of the DCO application, which included the Environmental Statement and the Applicant’s Habitats Regulations Assessment No Significant Effects Report, the Inspectorate has reconsidered the transboundary screening decision made on 10th July 2017.</p> <p>The Inspectorate notes that changes have been made to the Proposed Development the subject of the DCO application since the previous transboundary screening decision was made. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minor line re-alignments; • minor changes to pole locations; and • minor changes to proposed access routes and temporary laydown areas. <p>However, the Inspectorate considers that the changes will not result in significant effects on the environment in another EEA State, and therefore the conclusion remains unchanged from that in the previous transboundary screening decision.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In reaching this view the Inspectorate has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in its Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Process), and taken into account the information currently supplied by the Applicant.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>No further action required at this stage</p> <p>No new EEA States have been identified as being likely to have significant effects on their environment.</p> <p>Date: 29th January 2019</p> <p>Note: The SoS’ duty under Regulation 24 of the 2009 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.</p>	

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/>