The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Transboundary screening undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for the purposes of Regulation 32 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations)	
Project name:	North Humber to High Marnham ('the Proposed Development')
Address/Location:	Yorkshire and Nottingham, between Creyke Beck and High Marnham
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN020034
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – June 2024 following the Applicant's request for a scoping opinion

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	North Humber to High Marnham – Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (August 2023) ('the Scoping Report')
Screening Criteria:	**The Inspectorate's Comments:**
Characteristics of the Development	The Proposed Development is to provide reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between a proposed new substation near Creyke Beck, in Yorkshire and a proposed new substation near High Marnham in Nottinghamshire. The proposed new substations do not currently form part of the project. The project and associated development broadly comprise: • works to facilitate the connection of a new overhead line (OHL) into a proposed new substation; • a new 400 kV OHL route, approximately 90 km in length; • reconfiguration of a section of the existing 400 kV ZDA OHL route east of Crowle and west of Keadby Power Station, potentially including cable sealing end compounds (CSEC's); • works to facilitate the connection of a new OHL into a proposed new substation close to the existing High Marnham Substation; • potential CSEC's and/or tunnel head houses for any underground cable sections of the project; • potential alterations to sections of existing transmission OHLs; • potential for removal/reconfiguration/diversion of utility assets.

	Construction is expected to start in 2027 and be completed by 2031. The Scoping Report states that the design life of the Proposed Development is at least 80 years but with regular maintenance is likely to extend further. Construction of the Proposed Development will require materials including galvanised steel for the pylons, reinforced concrete for the foundations, concrete, insulator sets (typically glass, porcelain or polymeric) and aluminium/copper conductors. Construction and operation would utilise natural resources including water, agricultural land, soil and biodiversity. The types and quantities of waste materials likely to be produced by the Proposed Development have not been estimated in the Scoping Report. A Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) would be produced prior to construction. The Scoping Report identifies the potential for the Proposed Development to produce pollution or nuisances, including from: • emissions to water and soil; • traffic; • emissions to air; • noise and vibration; • greenhouse gas emissions; and • Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF).
Location of Development (including existing use) and Geographical area	The application site is located is the east of England, across the Humber and East Midland regions. The site lies within the East Riding of Yorkshire; the central part of the project lies in North Lincolnshire and the southern part of Bassetlaw District. The site location is shown on Figure 1.1 of the Scoping Report. The application site is predominantly rural, largely under arable use. Several urban areas are located in proximity to the Proposed Development including the city of Kingston-upon-Hull. Multiple villages and properties are located within or near to the Proposed Development. The Scoping Report does not set out whether any major developments are located in the proximity to the Proposed Development. **Distance to EEA States** The application site lies within approximately 1km of the Humber Estuary which connects to the North Sea. The Applicant has not identified within the Scoping Report the nearest EEA state to the Proposed Development. No information is provided in the Scoping Report about any areas which could be affected which are under the jurisdiction of an EEA State.
Environmental Importance	The Scoping Report states that there are six internationally designated sites within 10km and one additional internationally

	designated site (for qualifying ornithological features) within 15km of the study areas set out in the Scoping Report. Appendix 8.A of the Scoping Report sets out the relevant designated sites in proximity to the site. Scoping Report details that the Proposed Development's boundary overlaps with the Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar site and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), all of which fall within the UK boundary. The locations of the European sites are shown on Scoping Report Volume 3, Figure 8-1. The Thorne Hatfield Moors SPA and Thorne Moor SAC are located 2.99km west of the Proposed Development. The Hatfield Moor SAC and Lower Derwent Valley SPA are located 5.75km west and 14.44km north-west of the site respectively. The Lower Derwent Valley SAC and Ramsar have not been identified within the SR. The sites are designated for the following features: **Humber Estuary SAC:** • estuarine habitats including sandbanks, mudflats and sandflats; • sea and river lamprey; and • grey seal. **Humber Estuary SPA:** • internationally important populations of breeding and non-breeding bird species, including migratory species associated with EEA states; and • internationally important water bird assemblages in any season. **Humber Estuary Ramsar site:** • estuarine habitats including dune systems, and humid dune slacks, intertidal mudflats and sandflats, salt marshes and coastal lagoons; • breeding colony of grey seal; • breeding site for natterjack toad; • internationally important populations of various bird species in the non-breeding (wintering) season: Shelduck; Golden plover; Red knot; Dunlin; Black-tailed godwit; Bar-tailed godwit; and Common redshank; • internationally important waterfowl assemblage; and • importance as a migration route for river lamprey and sea lamprey between coastal waters and their spawning areas. **Humber Estuary SSSI:** • estuarine habitats, including intertidal mudflats, sandflats and saltmarsh; • geological and geomorphological interest; • wintering and passage wildfowl and waders and breeding bird populations; • breeding grey seals;

	• river lamprey and sea lamprey; and • vascular plant and invertebrate assemblages. **Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA:** • Nightjar. **Thorne Moor SAC:** • degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration. **Hatfield Moor SAC:** • degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration. **Lower Derwent Valley SPA:** • Breeding shoveler; • Wintering teal; • Wintering wigeon; • Wintering Bewick's swan; • Wintering ruff; • Golden plover. The application site and surrounding area could potentially be functionally linked to European sites, for example if it is used by SPA/ Ramsar bird qualifying features or through hydrological connectivity. Further bird survey work is to be undertaken to inform the environmental baseline and the subsequent EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
Potential impacts and Carrier	The Scoping Report identifies European sites within the National Site Network in proximity to the Proposed Development and explains that the Proposed Development could potentially have adverse impacts on qualifying features of these sites, including through: • temporary and permanent loss, fragmentation/modification and disturbance of habitats including any functionally linked land during construction and operation; • emissions to air and water during construction and operation; • introduction of invasive non-native species leading to degradation of existing habitat quality and reduction in native species due to being outcompeted; • loss/reduction in habitat quality for protected and notable species due to changes in ground water levels; • displacement of birds that forage within land distant from the designated site (functionally linked land); • increased predation of qualifying features by predatory birds afforded additional nesting or roosting habitat by proposed pylons; • collision mortality due to permanent structures/barriers, affecting ornithological qualifying features; and

	• disturbance to breeding and wintering birds through noise, vibration, visual and lighting disturbance. The Scoping Report Appendix 8, Table 8.A.1 describes the identified SPA/ Ramsar sites as supporting migratory bird species. Should those migratory bird species be associated with European sites in EEA states, there is a potential pathway for effects. However, the Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States. The proposed crossing of the River Ouse lies within the designated sites associated with the Humber Estuary (the crossing is located within the tidal reach of the River Ouse). Although not raised within the Scoping Opinion, a potential impact pathway exists for mobile qualifying species for these designations including river and sea lamprey and grey seal.
Extent	The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts that are likely to lead to significant effects on the environment in EEA States. The Scoping Report states that, given the nature of the Proposed Development and its location, significant transboundary effects are considered unlikely. However, the Inspectorate notes that the features of the Humber Estuary SPA, as cited in the Scoping Report, include the following species associated with populations in EEA states: • Red knot comprising 6.3% of the North Eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North Western Europe populations; and • Black-tailed godwit comprising 2.6 - 3.2% of the Icelandic breeding population. The qualifying features of the Humber Estuary Ramsar site include the following species associated with populations in EEA states: • Golden plover representing 2.2% of the Iceland and Faroes/East Atlantic population; and • Black-tailed godwit comprising 3.2% of the Iceland/West Europe populations.
Magnitude	The magnitude of impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage. The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.
Probability	The probability of impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage. The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.
Duration	The duration of impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage.

	Potential impacts to migratory birds from collision risk with the OHL are likely to be long-term, throughout the operational phase of the Proposed Development. The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.
Frequency	The frequency of potential impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage. Potential impacts to migratory birds from collision risk with the OHL are likely to be occur during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.
Reversibility	The reversibility of potential impacts has not been fully evaluated at this stage. The Scoping Report does not identify any impacts likely to result in significant effects on the environment in any EEA States.
Cumulative impacts	A specific list of other developments to be included within the cumulative effects assessment has not been provided within the Scoping Report, but the types of plans or projects that may be considered are described in Chapter 5 of the Scoping Report. The Applicant's cumulative effects assessment has not yet been undertaken and the Applicant has not identified any likely significant cumulative effects at this stage. The Inspectorate notes the development pressures affecting the Humber Estuary, in particular the potential for effects on land functionally linked to protected sites along the Humber.

Transboundary screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS

Under Regulation 32 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 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 an 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. Transboundary issues notification under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations is not required.

Date: 03 June 2024

Note: The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 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 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-twelve-transboundary-impacts-and-process