



Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State	
Project name:	A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme
Address/Location:	A14 in Cambridgeshire between Ellington on the western outskirts of Huntingdon to Milton, north of Cambridge.
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	TR010018
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening: 22 April 2014, following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion Second screening: 16 March 2015, following submission of the DCO application documents
EEA States identified for notification:	First screening: None identified Second screening: None identified

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement - Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report ('the Scoping Report').
Date	22 April 2014
Screening Criteria:	Secretary of State Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	<p>The proposed development would comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • widening of the existing A14 dual carriageway between Swavesey and Girton • construction of a new bypass south of Huntingdon (18km in length) • road improvements to the A1 trunk road between Brampton and Alconbury • construction of local access roads • de-trunking of the existing A14 route through Huntingdon • temporary site construction compounds • soil storage areas • borrow pits • drainage works, including ponds and outfalls; and • lighting and signage including gantries.
Geographical area	The applicant does not anticipate any impacts are likely to extend beyond the jurisdiction of the UK, with the exception of the potential release of greenhouse gas emissions (Scoping Report, Table A1).
Location of Development (including existing use)	<p>The site is located in the county of Cambridgeshire and within the administrative boundaries of Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. The site is located partially on land within the existing highways corridor, and on land used for agricultural purposes (Scoping Report, Table A1).</p> <p>The applicant has indicated in the Scoping Report that the nearest EEA state to the proposed development is France,</p>

	290km south of the site (Scoping Report, Table A1).
Cumulative impacts	<p>The Scoping Report identifies a number of proposed housing and mixed-use developments within 5km of the proposed scheme, including a proposal for 10,000 homes at Northstowe (Scoping Report, Table A1).</p> <p>The applicant does not anticipate significant cumulative transboundary effects.</p>
Carrier	Potential pollution via air, land and water.
Environmental Importance	<p>Table 9.2 in the Scoping Report identifies a number of ecological receptors in the area surrounding the site. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portholme Meadows SAC • Eversden and Upper Wimpole Woods SAC • Brampton Meadow SSSI • Brampton Wood SSSI and Ancient Woodland • Brampton Racecourse SSSI; and • County Wildlife Sites. <p>The Scoping Report confirms that 6 Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbodies are likely to be directly affected by the proposed development (Scoping Report paragraph 15.2.20):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellington Brook • Great Ouse • West Brook • Swavesey Drain • Cottenham Lode; and • River Cam. <p>Paragraph 7.3.2 of the Scoping Report confirms that there are 327 archaeological remains, 166 historic buildings and 4 historic landscape character types within a 300m buffer surrounding the site. Paragraphs 7.4.2 to 7.4.3 of the Scoping Report confirm that the proposed development would directly affect Mill Common Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), and would involve the removal of Grade II listed assets including the Great Northern Railway, and the Great River Ouse Navigation.</p>
Extent	<p>The applicant has identified in the Scoping Report (Table A1) that the only pathway of effect to another EEA Member State would be the release of greenhouse gas emissions. On the basis of the design measures built into the development and the implementation of mitigation measures and best practice (in line with regulatory body requirements), it is not anticipated that the release of greenhouse gas emissions would have a significant impact on another EEA Member State.</p>

	No other impacts have been identified which could impact on another EEA Member State.
Magnitude	No other impacts have been identified which could impact on another EEA Member State.
Probability	No other impacts have been identified which could impact on another EEA Member State.
Duration	No other impacts have been identified which could impact on another EEA Member State.
Frequency	No other impacts have been identified which could impact on another EEA Member State.
Reversibility	No other impacts have been identified which could impact on another EEA Member State.

Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State

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.

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

Date: 22 April 2014

Note: The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.

SECOND TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Document used for transboundary Screening:	Environmental Statement (ES) (dated December 2014); and Assessment of Implications on European Sites – Stage 1: No significant effects report (AIES) (dated December 2014).
Date	Re-screened on 16 March 2015, following submission of the DCO application documents.

Transboundary re-screening undertaken by the Secretary of State

Following submission of the DCO application, which included the applicant's ES and AIES report, the Secretary of State has reconsidered the transboundary screening decision undertaken on 22 April 2014.

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

- Change in the description of the proposed development; and
- Changes to the DCO boundary.

Change in the description of the proposed development

Chapter 3 of the applicant's Scoping Report (dated March 2014) stated that the design of the proposed development would continue to be developed, building on feedback received from the consultation stages.

In Chapter 2 of the Scoping Report, the length of the proposed bypass south of Huntingdon was described as being approximately 18km in length. Within Chapter 1 of the ES, the bypass is described as being '*approximately 20 km in length*'. Chapter 4 of the ES describes various other changes to the design of the proposed development, including:

- A revised design for the River Great Ouse Viaduct, to alleviate flood risk;
- Increased size and number of flood compensation areas;
- Changes to road layouts, junctions, crossings and levels;
- Changes to design of bridges;
- Improved non-motorised user links.

No significant environmental effects on other European Economic Area (EEA) Member States are anticipated as a result of the design changes.

Changes to the DCO boundary

Chapter 1 of the applicant's Scoping Report stated that the proposed DCO application site boundary (as shown in Figure 1.1 of the Scoping Report) was provisional. Consequently, the DCO boundary has been altered during the period between the Secretary of State's first transboundary screening in April 2014 and the submission of the DCO application. The altered DCO boundary is shown in Figure 1.1 of the ES and the changes can be summarised as follows:

- Inclusion of the sections of the existing A14 to be de-trunked;
- Inclusion of proposed locations for borrow pits, flood compensation areas, soil storage areas and compound sites; and
- Inclusion of new local access roads.

A transboundary effects screening matrix has been provided in Appendix 19.1 of the ES (Table 1.1). Potential beneficial impacts are identified associated with improved capacity on the Trans-European network, but this is an economic impact rather than environmental. The release of greenhouse gas emissions has been identified as a potential impact which could extend beyond the jurisdiction of the UK, spread by the means of atmospheric processes. This impact has been assessed as being of negligible magnitude, of likely probability to occur, long-term in duration, relatively constant in frequency and irreversible in human lifetimes. On the basis of the design measures built into the development and the implementation of mitigation measures and best practice (in line with regulatory body requirements), it is not considered that the release of greenhouse gas emissions would have a significant environmental impact on any other EEA Member State.

No other potential significant environmental impacts are identified in the applicant's ES or AIES report on any area under the jurisdiction of any other EEA state.

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. Therefore, 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 EE state.

In reaching this view, the Secretary of State has applied the precautionary approach (as explained in the Planning Inspectorate's *Advice Note 12: Development with significant transboundary impacts consultation, version 3 (April 2012)*); and taken into account the information currently supplied by the applicant.

Action: No further action required at this stage.

Date: 16 March 2015

Note: The Secretary of State's duty under Regulation 24 of the EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.