



<b>Overview - Transboundary screening undertaken by the Secretary of State</b>	
<b>Project name:</b>	West Midlands Interchange
<b>Address/ Location:</b>	Land at Four Ashes, Staffordshire, within the administrative boundary of South Staffordshire Council
<b>Planning Inspectorate Ref:</b>	TR050005
<b>Date(s) screening undertaken:</b>	First screening – 2 December 2016, following the Applicant's request for a Scoping Opinion
<b>European Economic Area (EEA) States identified for notification:</b>	First screening: None identified

<b>FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE</b>	
<b>Document(s) used for transboundary screening:</b>	West Midlands Interchange Formal EIA Scoping Opinion Request ('the Scoping Report')
<b>Date:</b>	2 December 2016
<b>Screening Criteria:</b>	<b>Secretary of State Comments:</b>
<b>Characteristics of the Development</b>	<p>The proposed development is a rail freight interchange with connections to the West Coast Main Line (WCML). The site area is approximately 260 hectares.</p> <p>The key components of the proposed development are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An intermodal rail freight terminal, container storage and associated Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) parking;</li> <li>• 800,000m<sup>2</sup> of rail served warehousing, ancillary service buildings and parking;</li> <li>• New road infrastructure and works to the existing road infrastructure;</li> <li>• A new principal access from the A5 into the site;</li> <li>• Landscaping; and</li> <li>• Demolition of existing structures within the site, where necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>Geographical area</b>	The site is entirely located within South Staffordshire District in England. No impact is identified in the area under the jurisdiction of another EEA State.
<b>Location of Development (including existing use)</b>	The proposed development would be located on land at Four Ashes, Staffordshire, approximately 10km to the north of Wolverhampton and immediately to the west of Junction 12 of the M6 motorway.

	<p>Land use across the site is mixed, characterised by an active aggregate quarry, agricultural land and an area of mixed woodland. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal bisects the site, with the Calf Heath and Gailey Reservoirs located to the east/ north-east of the site.</p> <p>The surrounding land is predominantly utilised for agricultural and employment purposes, with a large chemical works located adjacent to the site boundary. An industrial estate and an energy recovery facility are located to the south of the site.</p>
<b>Cumulative impacts</b>	<p>Appendix 2 of the Scoping Report identifies 32 developments which may have cumulative effects with the proposed development. This includes one Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) - the proposed M54 M6/ M6 Toll Link Road, located approximately 4.5km to the south-east of the proposed development.</p>
<b>Carrier</b>	<p>Potential pollution via air, land and water.</p>
<b>Environmental Importance</b>	<p>The Scoping Report states that Four Ashes Pit Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), designated for its geological value, is located approximately 140m to the south of the site. The Scoping Report identifies a number of ecological designations in proximity to the proposed development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motte Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC);</li> <li>• Cannock Chase SAC;</li> <li>• Cannock Extension Canal SAC;</li> <li>• Belvide Reservoir SSSI; and</li> <li>• Local Wildlife Sites (LWS).</li> </ul> <p>The Scoping Report identifies a number of Water Framework Directive (WFD) surface water bodies which bisect or are in proximity to the site, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal;</li> <li>• Hatherton Canal;</li> <li>• Saredon Brook; and</li> <li>• The River Penk.</li> </ul> <p>The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal is also a designated conservation area. The Scoping Report acknowledges that there are a number of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and undesignated heritage assets within 1km of the site boundary.</p> <p>The Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is located approximately 3km to the east of the site at its</p>

	nearest point.
<b>Extent</b>	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Magnitude</b>	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Probability</b>	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Duration</b>	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Frequency</b>	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA State.
<b>Reversibility</b>	No impacts identified which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EEA 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:** 2 December 2016

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

### **SECOND TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING**

<b>Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:</b>	Environmental Statement and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) No Significant Effects Report July 2018
<b>Date screening undertaken:</b>	Re-screened on 22 May 2019 following submission of the application documents on 3 August 2018 and the Secretary of State's decision to accept the application for examination on 24 August 2018.

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

Following submission of the DCO application, which included the Environmental Statement and the Applicant's HRA report, the Inspectorate considers that no new matters, outside of those identified in the previous transboundary screening decision, have been identified and therefore the Inspectorate has reached the same conclusion as in the previous screening decision dated 2 December 2016.

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:** 22 May 2019

**Note:** The SoS' duty under Regulation 24 of the 2009 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 the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 12, available on our website at <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>