

Yorkshire GREEN Project

Environmental Impact Assessment

Volume three: Preliminary Environmental
Information Report Appendix 4A Scoping
Opinion Responses

October 2021

nationalgrid

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Appendix 4A: Scoping Opinion Responses

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1.1 Scoping opinion responses

1.1.1 A Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State, administered by the Planning Inspectorate, on 28 April 2021. The information provided in the PEIR is preliminary and not all of the Scoping Opinion comments have been addressed at this stage, however all comments will be addressed within the ES. **Table 4A.1** provides a summary of the response in relation to EIA co-ordination and requirements, Project description and alternatives and need. The aspect chapters (**Chapters 6 to 16**) in Volume 2 provide further responses to the Scoping Opinion.

Table 4A-1 Preliminary response to EIA comments in Scoping Opinion

ID	Ref	Planning Inspectorate comment	Response
PINSC1-4	1.2.2	<i>The list of respondents who replied within the statutory timeframe and whose comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion is provided, along with copies of their comments, at Appendix 2, to which the Applicant should refer in preparing their ES.</i>	Noted, no action required.
PINSC1-5	1.2.3	<i>The ES submitted by the Applicant should demonstrate consideration of the points raised by the consultation bodies. It is recommended that a table is provided in the ES summarising the scoping responses from the consultation bodies and how they are, or are not, addressed in the ES.</i>	Noted. A table of responses to comments made by consultation bodies will be provided in each respective technical chapter for the PEIR/ES.
PINSC1-6	1.2.4	<i>Late responses will be forwarded to the Applicant and will be made available on the Inspectorate's website. The Applicant should also give due consideration to those comments in preparing their ES.</i>	Noted, no action required.
PINSC2-1	2.3.1	<i>The ES should include a description of the Proposed Development comprising at least the information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development</i>	The ES will provide a description of the Project and its components, inclusive of sites, design and size.

ID	Ref	Planning Inspectorate comment	Response
PINSC2-2	2.3.1	<i>The ES should include a description of the location of the development and description of the physical characteristics of the whole development, including any requisite demolition works and the land-use requirements during construction and operation phases.</i>	The ES will provide a description of the location of the whole Project and of its physical characteristics, inclusive of land-use requirements at all stages of development.
PINSC2-3	2.3.2	<i>The ES must clarify the extent of land and nature of construction facilities required and any impacts that may arise as relevant. It should be clear within the ES as to which elements are temporary and permanent, and their duration.</i>	The ES will detail land take and supporting construction facilities required for the Project. Whether these facilities are temporary or permanent will be noted.
PINSC2-4	2.3.3	<i>The Inspectorate considers that the Applicant should make effort to define these routes [access routes for York North substation and new 400kv OHL] within the ES; however, where they are unable to do so, the Applicant should ensure that the ES appropriately assesses the likely significant effects associated with the potential access routes.</i>	The ES will provide a description of the potential access routes for the construction phase of the Project. Where these cannot be accurately defined due to project maturity, the ES will present a worst-case scenario assessment.
PINSC2-7	2.3.5	<i>the ES should include further details of the construction and phasing programme to enable an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development, including any potential intensification of effects arising from overlapping construction activity.</i>	The ES will set out the construction phasing programme for the Project components. Due consideration, where relevant, will be given to overlapping construction activities.

ID	Ref	Planning Inspectorate comment	Response
PINSC2-8	2.3.6	<p><i>... There are two routeing options under consideration for the two new 275kV OHL between the existing 275kV OHL (Poppleton to Monk Fryston) and the proposed York North substation (see figure 2.2 and figure 2.3) and the final option selected will affect the scope of removal works required to the existing OHL. The Applicant should make effort to fix the siting of each component and reduce such uncertainty; where this is not possible, the Applicant should ensure that the ES assesses a worst-case scenario adopting a parameter based approach.</i></p>	<p>Noted. The applicant will seek to ensure that the components of the Project are fixed and reflect this in the development description. Where this is not possible, a worst-case scenario will be adopted for the purposes of assessment.</p>
PINSC2-9	2.3.7	<p><i>The Applicant should ensure that the description of the Proposed Development that is being applied for is as accurate and firm as possible, as this will form the basis of the EIA.</i></p>	<p>Noted. The applicant will seek to ensure that the components of the Project are fixed, however, where this is not possible, the Rochdale Envelope principle will be applied for the purposes of assessment.</p>
PINSC2-10	2.3.7	<p><i>In the event that a DCO application is submitted, the Applicant should clearly define what elements of the Proposed Development are integral to the NSIP, and whether any elements are 'Associated Development' under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) or ancillary matters.</i></p>	<p>The ES will clearly distinguish between components of the Project integral to the NSIP and other elements which are considered associated development.</p>
PINSC2-11	2.3.7	<p><i>Any proposed works and / or infrastructure required as Associated Development or an ancillary matter (whether on or off-site) should be assessed as part of an integrated approach to environmental assessment.</i></p>	<p>The ES will include an assessment of elements of the Project which are considered associated development.</p>
PINSC2-12	2.3.9	<p><i>The Inspectorate considers that a high-level environmental assessment of the decommissioning of the Proposed Development should be provided in the ES.</i></p>	<p>The ES will include a high-level description and assessment of decommissioning.</p>

ID	Ref	Planning Inspectorate comment	Response
PINSC2-13	2.3.9	<i>The assessment should provide information about the predicted future baseline which has been applied to the assessment of decommissioning effects.</i>	The ES will provide an overview of the predicted future baseline applied to the assessment of decommissioning effects.
PINSC2-14	2.3.9	<i>The estimated timescales for the life span of the Proposed Development should also be set out, along with an indication of the certainty in this regard</i>	The ES will set out the anticipated operational timescales of the Project components.
PINSC2-15	2.3.9	<i>The sensitivity of the findings in the assessment to any departure or deviation from the estimated timescales should be explained.</i>	The ES will consider the sensitivity of the assessment to any deviation from the proposed programme.
PINSC2-16	2.3.9	<i>The process and methods of decommissioning should be considered and options presented in the ES.</i>	The ES will include a high-level description and assessment of decommissioning.
PINSC2-17	2.3.11	<i>The Inspectorate would expect to see a discrete section in the ES that provides details of the reasonable alternatives studied and the reasoning for the selection of the chosen option(s), including a comparison of the environmental effects.</i>	The ES will include an alternatives chapter which will summarise the optioneering process and reasonable alternatives studied, alongside the reasons for the chosen options.
PINSC2-18	2.3.12	<i>The ES should describe the selection process used and decisions made that result in the determination of the final locations for the substations, CSECs and OHL route.</i>	The ES will include an alternatives chapter which will summarise the optioneering process and reasonable alternatives studied, alongside the reasons for the chosen options.
PINSC2-19	2.3.14	<i>The Scoping Report states at paragraph 2.3.1 that a design envelope approach has been adopted for the EIA Scoping given that the location and extent of some elements of the Proposed Development are still indicative. The Inspectorate notes that it is not entirely clear whether the intention of the Applicant is to finalise these elements prior to any DCO application or if the Rochdale Envelope approach is to be</i>	Noted. The applicant will seek to ensure that the components of the Project are fixed, however, where this is not possible, the Rochdale Envelope principal will be applied for the purposes of assessment. The ES will clearly describe where the latter approach is applied and why.

ID	Ref	Planning Inspectorate comment	Response
		<i>adopted in the compiling of the ES, as well as the EIA Scoping.</i>	
PINSC2-20	2.3.14	<i>The ES should make clear the approach that has been taken and where final decisions are still to be made, the ES should consider the worst case scenario, as applied to each aspect assessment, based upon the options/ parameters presented in the ES.</i>	Noted. The applicant will seek to ensure that the components of the Project are fixed, however, where this is not possible, the Rochdale Envelope principal will be applied for the purposes of assessment. In all instances, a worst-case scenario will be applied for assessment.
PINSC2-21	2.3.15	<i>The Applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the Proposed Development have yet to be finalised and provide the reasons. At the time of application, any Proposed Development parameters should not be so wide-ranging as to represent effectively different developments.</i>	Noted. The applicant will seek to ensure that the components of the Project are fixed, however, where this is not possible, the Rochdale Envelope principal will be applied for the purposes of assessment. The ES will clearly describe where the latter approach is applied and why.
PINSC2-22	2.3.15	<i>The development parameters should be clearly defined in the dDCO and in the accompanying ES. It is a matter for the Applicant, in preparing an ES, to consider whether it is possible to robustly assess a range of impacts resulting from a large number of undecided parameters.</i>	Noted. The applicant will seek to ensure that the components of the Project are fixed, however, where this is not possible, the Rochdale Envelope principal will be applied for the purposes of assessment. The ES will clearly describe where the latter approach is applied and why.
PINSC2-23	2.3.15	<i>The description of the Proposed Development in the ES must not be so wide that it is insufficiently certain to comply with the requirements of Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations.</i>	Noted. The description of the development will comply with Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations.
PINSC2-24	2.3.16	<i>It should be noted that if the Proposed Development materially changes prior to submission of the DCO application, the Applicant may wish to consider requesting a new scoping opinion.</i>	Noted, no action required.

ID	Ref	Planning Inspectorate comment	Response
PINSC4-14	4.1.9	<i>The Scoping Report does not define 'XC/XCP' or 'XD/XC' in relation to the existing 275kV OHL listed in the glossary. These terms should be clarified in the ES.</i>	XC/XCP and XD/XC will be defined in the PEIR and ES.
PINSC4-70	4.5.6	<i>Consideration should also be given to the potential for intra project effects on identified receptors.</i>	Noted. Intra-project effects will be considered and an assessment provided as part of the ES.
PINSC4-74	4.5.8	<i>Watercourse crossing methodologies should be described in the ES, where relevant, including any temporary and permanent points of access.</i>	Noted, crossing methodologies will be included in future environmental reporting and form part of the development description chapter in the ES. The appropriate cross references to this will be made in the water chapter.
PINSC5-1	5.0.2	<i>Applicants are also advised to review the list of information required to be submitted within an application for Development as set out in The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009.</i>	Noted, the applicant will review the list of information required to be submitted.

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