



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:	Proposed Ossian Transmission Infrastructure Project (OTIP)
Address/Location:	The proposed development comprises offshore and onshore underground electricity cables to connect the Ossian Array (a floating offshore windfarm in Scottish waters) to an onshore connection with the National Grid. The proposed development would make landfall in Lincolnshire, with onward electricity transmission via onshore underground cables to a National Grid connection point. The offshore part of the proposed development is located in the North Sea, in both Scottish and English waters. The OTIP includes offshore and onshore components in England and English waters only. Works required beyond English waters will be consented separately under the Scottish consenting regime, including the Ossian Array.
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN0210006
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – 1 July 2025 following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	Transboundary impacts are set out within the aspect chapters of: - Ossian Offshore Wind Farm: Transmission Infrastructure EIA Scoping Report (parts 1 to 5) ('the Scoping Report') February 2025 Transboundary impacts are also set out in: - Appendix 5.1: Transboundary Impact Screening within the Scoping Report part 5
Screening Criteria:	The Inspectorate's Comments:

Characteristics of the Development	The proposed development consists of an electrical transmission link from the boundary with Scottish territorial waters to the landfall site on the northeast coast of England. The proposed development does not include any electricity generation itself but would transmit electricity generated by the Ossian Array in Scottish waters to landfall in Lincolnshire. The key components of the proposed development are: Offshore The Offshore Transmission Infrastructure will comprise offshore export cables, located within an offshore export cable corridor. At this stage the exact location of the export cables within the offshore export cable corridor is unconfirmed but will be refined within the Environmental Statement (ES). Up to six subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) export cables with a maximum length of 2,783km of unbundled subsea export cables in English waters. These cables would run from the proposed landfall location in Lincolnshire to the marine boundary between English and Scottish waters, a route of approximately 464km in English waters. The offshore export cables may be bundled to reduce the number of cable trenches required, from six to three, but a worst-case scenario design parameter of six trenches is considered within the Scoping Report. Each offshore export cable will be installed in a trench up to 3m wide for each cable and buried to a target burial depth between 1m and 3m (subject to a cable burial risk assessment). Onshore The onshore components of the proposed development comprise: • Six Transition Joint Bays (TJBs) to join offshore and onshore HVDC cables. • Three Onshore Converter Stations (OCSs) to transform the electricity supplied by the Ossian Array from HVDC to High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) for connection to the National Grid electricity transmission system. One OCS will be located within 5km of the Lincolnshire Connection Substation and two OCSs will be located within 5km of the Weston Marsh Substation. All OCSs will have an indicative permanent footprint of 7.5hectares and a maximum building height of 26m. • Onshore HVDC cables would connect the TJBs at landfall to the OCSs. This may include: ○ two onshore HVDC cables between the TJBs and the Lincolnshire Connection Substation, with a maximum length of 17km ○ four onshore HVDC cables between the TJBs and Weston March Substation, with a maximum length of 80km ○ up to six fibre optic cables
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	Onshore HVAC cables would connect the OCSs to Lincolnshire Connection Substation and Weston March Substation. This may include up to 6 cables with a maximum length of 5km per route as well as fibre optic cables. Duration The Scoping Report states that construction works for the onshore components of the proposed development are anticipated to take up to four years, although this will be influenced by grid connection dates and detailed phasing of the works. The Scoping Report does not indicate the length of the construction period for the offshore components of the proposed development. However, it does state that the overall construction programme for Ossian, including the proposed development and Ossian Array, will cover a longer time period and will be dependent on the detailed phasing of works, which will be further detailed within the ES. The anticipated operational lifetime of the proposed transmission infrastructure is 35 years, although the Scoping Report states that it is possible that this operational lifetime could be extended.
Location of Development (including existing use) and Geographical area	Offshore The offshore components of the proposed development would be subsea export cables located in the North Sea within English territorial waters, from the boundary with Scottish waters to the landfall site on the northeast coast of England. The exact landfall location is still to be determined but a preferred landfall search area has been identified between the southern edge of Sandilands and Anderby Creek, south of Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire. The offshore scoping boundary of the proposed development is shown in figure 3.5.1 of the Scoping Report, part 1. Onshore The onshore components of the proposed development will be located wholly within the county of Lincolnshire. The onshore scoping boundary is shown in figure 3.6.3 and figure 3.7.1 of the Scoping Report, part 1. A large proportion of the area within the onshore scoping boundary is located within a rural and agricultural setting. There are a number of settlements, small villages, hamlets and isolated rural properties within the boundary as well as associated roads and railway lines. There are also areas of nature conservation and landscape value in proximity of the scoping boundary (see section on Environmental Importance below). Other major developments nearby The Scoping Report states that the proposed development overlaps with several operational and proposed offshore wind farms including Inner Dowsing, Lincs, Triton Knoll, Dogger Bank A

	and B and D, Hornsea 1, 2 and 4, Sofia and Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farms. These are illustrated in figure 6.10.3 of the Scoping Report, part 2. Distance to European Economic Area (EEA) States Table 1.1, appendix 5.1 of the Scoping Report identifies the following distances from the proposed development to EEA states jurisdictional boundaries: • The Netherlands, 121km • Norway, 152km • Belgium, 203km • Denmark, 203km • Germany, 204km • France, 216km The distance of EEA states from the scoping boundary is also illustrated in figure 1.1 of appendix 5.1 of the Scoping Report, part 5.
Environmental Importance	Offshore: Marine mammals (Scoping Report, part 2, section 6.5) The Scoping Report provides an early indication of the designated sites with marine mammals and their qualifying features (figure 6.5.5 and table 6.5.1 of the Scoping Report, part 2) in the vicinity of the proposed development, including: • Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (within the scoping boundary) • Humber Estuary SAC • The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC • Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC • Southern Trench Marine Protected Area (MPA) • Moray Firth SAC (Scottish waters) • Mousa SAC (Scottish waters) • Yell Sound Coast SAC (Scottish waters) The Scoping Report identifies the following key species likely to occur in the study area: • harbour porpoise • bottlenose dolphin • minke whale • white-beaked dolphin • grey seal • harbour seal • humpback whale Offshore ornithology (Scoping Report, part 2, section 6.6) The following designated sites located within the offshore ornithology study area are listed in table 6.6.1 and figure 6.6.2 of the Scoping Report, part 2: • Greater Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) (within the scoping boundary)

- Humber Estuary SPA
- The Wash SPA
- Flamborough and Filey Coast SPA
- Fowlsheugh SPA (Scotland)
- Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex SPA (Scotland)
- Forth Islands SPA (Scotland)

The Scoping Report identifies the following species, which comprise the vast majority of birds occurring within the offshore ornithology study area during both the breeding and non-breeding periods: Scoping Report identifies the following key species likely to occur in the study area:

- fulmar
- gannet
- kittiwake
- guillemot
- razorbill
- red-throated diver
- puffin

Offshore: Commercial fisheries (Scoping Report, part 2, section 6.7)

The Scoping Report shows the commercial fisheries study area in figure 6.7.1, which comprises the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) rectangles 42E9, 42F0, 41E9, 41F0, 40E9, 40F0, 39E9, 39F0, 38E9, 38F0, 37F0, 36F0, 36F1 and 35F0.

The Scoping Report lists the species of commercial importance which are present within the offshore scoping boundary, including shellfish, lobsters, crabs, herring, cockles and scallops.

The Scoping Report states that total fishing effort is relatively low within the northern half of the scoping boundary. Fishing effort becomes more intense within ICES rectangles 37F0, 36F0, 36F1 and 35F0, as the Offshore Transmission Infrastructure approaches the Landfall, as illustrated in figure 6.7.2.

The Scoping Report notes that fishers from other European jurisdictions such as Norway, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands may also access the ICES Rectangles within the commercial fisheries study area.

Offshore: Shipping and navigation (Scoping Report, part 2, section 6.8)

The Scoping Report (paragraphs 6.8.3.2 to 6.8.3.9) states that a considerable proportion of vessels in the study area are cargo vessels routing to/ from Denmark, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. Tankers also route to/ from ports in the Netherlands and Belgium and passenger vessels route to/ from the Netherlands.

	Onshore and intertidal ornithology (Scoping Report, part 3, section 7.5) Designated sites within 20km of the onshore scoping boundary are shown in figure 7.5.1 and table 7.5.1. Internationally designated sites include: • Greater Wash SPA (within the scoping boundary) • The Wash SPA and Ramsar site • Humber Estuary SPA and Ramsar site • Gibraltar Point SPA and Ramsar site There are several nationally designated sites within 20km of the scoping boundary, those located within the scoping boundary itself include: • Calceby Marsh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) • Candlesby Hill SSSI • Claxby Chalk Pit SSSI • Hoplands Wood SSSI • Keal Carr SSSI • Mavis Enderby Valley SSSI • Muckton Wood SSSI • Sea Bank Clay Pits SSSI • Surfleet Lows SSSI • Willoughby Wood SSSI The Scoping Report states that site-specific bird surveys are yet to be undertaken but identifies that key sensitive species are likely to include pink-footed geese, dark-bellied brent geese, and waders that utilise terrestrial habitats, such as curlew or golden plover.
Potential impacts and Carrier	The Scoping Report identifies potential transboundary impacts within each aspect chapter and provides a transboundary screening within appendix 5.1 of the Scoping Report, part 5. The Scoping Report identified potential transboundary impacts for the following environmental aspects: Offshore • Marine mammals ○ Injury and disturbance from subsea noise generated from unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance ○ Disturbance due to geophysical surveys ○ Disturbance due to vessel use and other activities ○ Injury due to collision with vessels ○ Effects on marine mammals due to altered prey availability • Offshore ornithology ○ Disturbance and displacement from airborne noise, underwater noise, and presence of vessels and infrastructure

	○ Indirect impacts from underwater noise affecting prey species ○ Indirect impacts from habitat loss or habitat disturbance which results in increased suspended sediment concentration • Commercial fisheries ○ Temporary loss or restricted access to fishing grounds ○ Displacement of fishing activity into other areas ○ Interference with fishing activity ○ Increased snagging risk, which could result in loss or damage to fishing gear ○ Increased steaming times ○ Potential impacts on commercially exploited species • Shipping and navigation ○ Increased vessel to vessel collision risk (third party to third party) ○ Increased vessel to vessel collision risk (third party to project vessel) ○ Reduced access to local ports and harbours ○ Reduction of under keel clearance ○ Anchor interaction with subsea cables ○ Interference with navigation, communications, and position-fixing equipment Onshore • Onshore and intertidal ornithology ○ Impact of permanent loss of supporting habitats and/or resource availability (arising during the construction phase) ○ Impact of temporary loss of supporting habitats and/or resource availability (arising from construction and decommissioning) ○ Disturbance and displacement from construction and decommissioning activities (and, potentially operation and maintenance if Landfall works require any cable reburial) ○ Impact of pollution caused by spills and/or contaminant release during construction and decommissioning The Planning Inspectorate notes that information on the proposed development and potential transboundary impacts provided within the Scoping Report are high level at this stage and will be refined further in the ES.
Extent	With regards to the aspect areas considered above, limited information is currently available on the extent of any potential transboundary impacts. However, the information on commercial fisheries does note that the North Sea may be used by vessels from Norway, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. The information on shipping and navigation notes that the North Sea is

	used by vessels from Denmark, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.
Magnitude	With regards to the offshore and onshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the magnitude of any potential transboundary impacts.
Probability	With regards to the offshore and onshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the probability of any potential transboundary impacts.
Duration	With regards to the offshore and onshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the duration of any potential transboundary impacts apart from the information on the duration of the proposed developments construction and operational phases as described above.
Frequency	With regards to the offshore and onshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the frequency of any potential transboundary impacts.
Reversibility	With regards to the offshore and onshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the reversibility of any potential transboundary impacts.
Cumulative impacts	The applicant's cumulative impact assessment has not yet been undertaken and the applicant has not identified any likely significant cumulative effects at this stage. The applicant has not yet identified an exhaustive list of the projects to be included within the cumulative impact assessment.

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 **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 Page Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process) and taken into account the information currently supplied by the applicant.

Action:

Transboundary issues notification under regulation 32 of The 2017 EIA Regulations is required.

States to be notified:

- Norway – due to potential impacts on commercial fisheries
- Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands due to potential impacts on commercial fisheries and shipping and navigation
- Belgium – due to potential impacts on shipping and navigation

Date: 1 July 2025

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 Page, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process, available at:

['Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process'](#).