



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:	Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL5)
Address/Location:	The proposed development comprises an electrical transmission reinforcement link, primarily in the offshore environment between Scotland and Anderby Creek in East Lindsey, Lincolnshire, England. Associated onshore infrastructure in England includes locations at Bilsby, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire and a connection to the Grimsby to Walpole project.
Planning Inspectorate Ref:	EN0210010
Date(s) screening undertaken:	First screening – 06 November 2025 following the applicant's request for a scoping opinion

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING	
Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:	Eastern Green Link 5 Volume 1: Main Text and Volume 3: Figures – Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report (Document Reference: EGL5-NGET-CONS-XX-RP-YL-006) ('the Scoping Report') September 2025
Screening Criteria:	The Inspectorate's Comments:
Characteristics of the Development	The proposed development comprises an electrical transmission reinforcement link project, which would supply up to 2 gigawatts (GW) of electricity between Scotland and England. The proposed development for which consent is being sought includes both offshore and onshore components in England and English waters. Works required beyond English waters will be consented separately under the Scottish consenting regime and are therefore outside the scope of this transboundary screening. The following key components of the proposed development are listed below: <u>English onshore scheme</u> As detailed in section 4.3 of the Scoping Report, the English Onshore Scheme would comprise the construction of: • A new converter station (referred to as the "new EGL5 converter station"), in the vicinity of the proposed 400

kilovolt (kV) Lincolnshire Connection Substation (LCS) LCS-B in Bilsby, East Lindsey. The current design size of the new EGL5 converter station is a 350m x 250m footprint and up to 30m in height, to also includes an additional 200m x 200m construction compound.

- Up to approximately 9 km of new underground 525kv High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable, from the landfall point at Anderby Creek to the new EGL5 converter station to include Transition Joint Bays (TJB) and construction compounds up to 150m x 150m area. The cable bundles will comprise one set of 2 HVDC cables, a Distributed Temperature Sensor (DTS) and fibre optic cables.
- Up to approximately 3 km of new underground High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cable, between the EGL5 converter station and the proposed 400 kV LCS-B. The connection will require 2 sets of 3 400kv HVAC cables, DTS and fibre optic cables.

The Scoping Report also describes the operational and maintenance/ repair requirements for the English Onshore Scheme.

The Scoping Report notes that LCS-A and LCS-B are included as part of the Grimsby to Walpole Project and therefore will form part of its DCO and are not included as part of the EGL5 Project.

The English Onshore Scheme is proposed to operate for at least 40 years, however there are no specific plans to decommission the proposed development and it is expected that ongoing maintenance and repair works would enable operation beyond this date.

English offshore scheme

As detailed in section 4.4 of the Scoping Report, the English Offshore Scheme would comprise the construction of up to 415km of a subsea HVDC cable bundle (comprising 2 HDVC cables and a fibre optic cable) from the Anderby Creek Landfall to the border between English and Scottish adjacent waters. The subsea cable system would consist of two bundled HVDC cables and a fibre optic cable for control and monitoring purposes.

Associated works include installation of cable protection such as rock, concrete mattresses, sand / rock / grout bags. Pre-construction surveys, unexploded ordnance (UXO) clearance, seabed preparation, trial trenching, and infrastructure crossings are also proposed as part of the construction works.

The English Offshore Scheme is proposed to operate for at least 40 years, however there are no specific plans to decommission the proposed development and it is expected that ongoing maintenance and repair works would enable operation beyond this date.

	<u>Duration</u> Subject to gaining development consent in 2028, the Scoping Report anticipates that construction of the English Onshore Scheme and English Offshore Scheme would commence in 2030. It is expected the main construction works for both schemes would continue through to 2035 (5 years).
Location of Development (including existing use) and Geographical area	<u>English onshore scheme</u> The English Onshore Scheme of EGL5 extends from Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coastline to the new EGL5 converter station, and proposed LCS-B northeast of Bilsby. The English Onshore Scheme extends into the local authority boundaries of East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. The boundary is indicated on Figure 1-2 of volume 3 of the Scoping Report. The onshore cable route commences between Anderby Creek and Sandilands, with 2 possible options for the onward route. Corridor 05 routes west, north of Huttoft, extending over the A52 and then A1111, before finishing at the A1104 between Beesby and Alford. Corridor 06 routes west, south of Huttoft, extending over the A52 and the A1111, before finishing at the A1104 between Beesby and Alford. The English Onshore Scheme currently includes two preferred options for the location of the EGL5 converter station. CS05 is located northeast of Bilsby spanning the A1111 Sutton Road, finishing to the northwest at Saleby. CS06 is located northwest of Huttoft, in between the A52 and Wold Grift Drain. These locations are indicated on Figure 1-3 in volume 3 of the Scoping Report. The English Onshore Scheme is predominately within agricultural land/ rural areas, with other habitats or land uses such as existing underground energy infrastructure, sand dunes and rivers or other watercourses which require crossing. The site and surrounding area are described in detail in section 4.3 of the Scoping Report. <u>English offshore scheme</u> The English Offshore Scheme of EGL5 extends from Mean High Water Springs (MHWS) where the English Offshore Scheme makes landfall at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coastline to the border between English and Scottish adjacent waters. There are 2 offshore route options that are currently under consideration, including one that largely avoids the Holderness Offshore Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) by routeing around the eastern boundary but crosses the northern tip of the Silver Pit glacial tunnel valley feature, and one that crosses directly through the Holderness Offshore MCZ. The English Offshore Scheme boundary and surrounding area is described in detail in section 4.4 and is indicated on Figures 1-4 and 1-5 of volume 3 of the Scoping Report.

	<u>Distance to European Economic Area (EEA) States</u> The applicant has not identified the nearest EEA state to the proposed development in the Scoping Report.
Environmental Importance	<u>English onshore scheme</u> The scoping boundary of the English Onshore Scheme and section 4.3 of the Scoping Report identifies that the sand dunes and habitats at the Anderby Creek landfall include areas which are designated ecological sites, comprising the Greater Wash Special Protection Area (SPA) and Sea Bank Clay Pits Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A number of priority habitats are also identified within or near to the landfall point and subsequent cable routes. Within 10km of the converter station options, designated sites include the Humber Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), SPA, Ramsar site and SSSI, and the Saltfleetby to Theddlethorpe Dunes and Gibraltar Point SAC and SSSI. There are multiple designated heritage assets within the scoping boundary or selected study areas, including scheduled monuments and listed buildings. There are areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3, together with several watercourses, including main rivers and notable drains. Other sensitive environmental receptors include a number of main roads, the Sandilands Nature Reserve, designated bathing waters, public rights of way (including coastal paths) and nearby settlements (predominately villages). <u>English offshore scheme</u> Section 5.10 of the Scoping Report states, that given the distance to the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary, there is no potential for international transboundary impacts where these are considered within the Scoping Report (offshore ornithology, marine mammals and other marine users). However, the Scoping Report identifies potential receptors in several offshore aspect chapters that include references to EEA States, which are identified below. Sections 20.7, 21.4, 22.4 of the Scoping Report also state that transboundary designated sites will be taken into consideration and captured in the HRA. The Scoping Boundary overlaps with designated sites including the Southern North Sea SAC and the Holderness Offshore MCZ. The sensitive receptors are represented on various figures in volume 3 of the Scoping Report. <u>Fish and shellfish ecology</u> Section 20.4 of the Scoping Report describes the likely fish and shellfish present within the study area, noting that the North Sea is utilised by fishing vessels from Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, France, Ireland, Spain and Germany. A list of species known to use the study area for spawning and nursery grounds

is given in table 20-7.

A list of protected species is provided in table 20-12 of the Scoping Report. Several UK European sites designated for their fish and shellfish qualifying features are identified within the study area, including the Holderness Offshore MCZ, Humber Estuary SAC, North East of Farnes Deep Highly Protected Marine Area (HPMA) and MCZ.

The Scoping Report describes the landed catches for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) rectangles crossed by the scoping boundary, namely 35F0, 36F0, 36F1, 37F0, 38E9, 38F0, 39E9, 39F0, 40E9, 40F0, 41E9, and 42E9.

Marine Mammals

The Scoping Report (chapter 22, table 22-6) describes a study area of up to 250km for cetaceans and 100km for grey seal for the proposed assessment of potential impacts to marine mammals, with specific reference to species known to have foraging colonies from designated sites in Ireland, the Netherlands and France. Further baseline information for species sighted within proximity to the Irish coastline is given in section 22.4.

A number of UK European sites designated for their marine mammal qualifying features are identified within the study area, including the Southern North Sea SAC, Humber Estuary SAC, the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC and Berwickshire and Northumberland Coast SAC. The Scoping Report states that any transboundary sites (Natura 2000 sites) within 250km of the scoping boundary will also be considered.

Commercial fisheries

The Scoping Report (chapter 24) confirms the proposed development would cross several different commercial fishing areas, which include the ICES rectangles referred to above. The Scoping Report states that the North Sea is home to important fishing grounds also used by international vessels from Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, France, Ireland, Spain and Germany. However, it states the majority of this occurs in ICES rectangles adjacent to the scoping boundary and further offshore.

The Scoping Report (section 24.4) states that a variety of shellfish, demersal species and pelagic species are fished across the North Sea, including some that are permitted to be caught by the above EEA states, with pelagic species also noted to be fished by the Norwegian fleet.

Other marine users

The Scoping Report (chapter 25) identifies other marine users around the proposed development including:

- offshore wind farms (table 25-7)
- power and telecommunications cables (table 25-8)
- disposal sites (table 25-9)
- aggregate extraction sites (table 25-10)

	• Ministry of Defence (MoD) practice area and exercise areas (table 25-11) • oil and gas operations (table 25-12) • recreational activities, comprising bathing waters (table 25-13), SCUBA diving, sailing and cruising, water sports and angling • carbon capture storage (CCS) and natural gas storage Several interconnectors and telecommunication cables between the UK and EEA States (both operational and proposed) have been identified in chapter 25 of the Scoping Report as being crossed or potentially crossed by the proposed development, with specific reference to Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway. The sensitive receptors referred to above are represented on various figures in volume 3 of the Scoping Report.
Potential impacts and Carrier	No potential receptors of environmental importance have been identified in the onshore environment that could result in transboundary impacts. Onshore receptors and impacts are therefore not discussed further in this screening. Potential impacts considered by the applicant as being required to be scoped in for impacts to UK receptors, for those offshore aspect chapters of the Scoping Report that also include reference to potential receptors in EEA States, are as follows: <u>Fish and shellfish ecology</u> • temporary habitat loss / seabed disturbance • permanent habitat loss • temporary increase and deposition of suspended sediments <u>Marine Mammals</u> • changes in supporting habitat and prey availability • underwater noise changes <u>Commercial fisheries</u> • temporary restricted access to fishing grounds (including required static gear clearance) • temporary displacement of fishing activity into other areas • permanent displacement of fishing activity • temporary increase and deposition of suspended sediments <u>Other marine users</u> • occupancy of seabed – below or on seabed • restricted access to recreational areas

Extent	With regards to the offshore aspect areas considered above, limited information is currently available on the extent of any potential transboundary impacts. However, the information on fish and shellfish ecology and commercial fisheries does note that the North Sea is used by vessels from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway and Germany.
Magnitude	With regards to the offshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the magnitude of any potential transboundary impacts.
Probability	With regards to the offshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the magnitude of any potential transboundary impacts.
Duration	With regards to the offshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the magnitude of any potential transboundary impacts.
Frequency	With regards to the offshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the magnitude of any potential transboundary impacts.
Reversibility	With regards to the offshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the magnitude of any potential transboundary impacts.
Cumulative impacts	With regards to the offshore aspect areas considered above, no information is currently available on the magnitude of any potential transboundary impacts.

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:

- Belgium and Spain - due to potential impacts on fish and shellfish, and commercial fisheries
- Denmark, Germany and Norway - due to potential impacts on fish and shellfish, commercial fisheries and other marine users
- France and Ireland - due to potential impacts on fish and shellfish, commercial fisheries and marine mammals

- Netherlands - due to potential impacts on fish and shellfish, commercial fisheries, marine mammals and other marine users

Date: 06 November 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'](#).