



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 14/12/2022

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: NATIONAL GRID NETWORKS UPGRADE

Project Number: 20110002

Country: UK

Project Description: An investment programme consisting of several electricity transmission sub-projects geographically dispersed across Great Britain. The programme included the Western HVDC subsea link that connects the electricity transmission network of Scotland with England and Wales across the Irish Sea. The link has a capacity of 2,250 MW and a route length of circa 420 km. The remainder of the programme comprised the uprating, reconductoring and refurbishment of 300 km of overhead routes, the laying of 100 km of new underground circuits, the installation of 81 new substation bays and 27 new transformers, and the refurbishment of 90 substation bays. The main purpose of the programme was to reinforce the network in response to demand and generation changes, to replace or refurbish aging assets and to improve network resilience to security and climate risks.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.

Project implementation ended in March 2021. The Project was implemented broadly in line with the scope described above, with some reduction in scope concerning the uprating of overhead routes and the investments aimed at reducing security risk to substations.

The EIA process of two sub-projects (reconductoring and voltage uprate of the OHL Waltham Cross-Tottenham-Hackney and Highbury substation) were ongoing at appraisal. The respective development consents were granted during Project implementation, in May 2014 for OHL Waltham Cross-Tottenham-Hackney (also known as North London Reinforcement Project) and in November 2013 for Highbury substation. At Project completion the Promoter informed that the uprate of the OHL Waltham Cross-Tottenham-Hackney was eventually not implemented due to changes in system needs.

Finally, the extension of Creyke Beck and Killingholme substations were subject to the development consents of the associated offshore wind developments, Dogger Bank and Hornsea respectively. These consents were outstanding at appraisal and entered into force in March 2015 and December 2014 respectively. Based on the marine mammal mitigation protocols integrated in the consents, EIB is of the opinion that the impact on marine mammals in the offshore wind developments areas has been appropriately addressed.



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In its annual reporting to the EIB, the Promoter did not report any significant environmental and social issue.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the Promoter during construction, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards applicable at the time of appraisal.