

Environmental and Social Data Sheet (Addendum)

Overview

Project Name:	Offshore Transmission Network Round 2A
Project Number:	2011-0265
Country:	United Kingdom
Project Description:	This addendum to the original ESDS prepared by the Bank addresses the inclusion of one additional sub-project, i.e. West of Duddon Sands (WoDS) transmission assets, to the existing three subprojects (Gwynt y Mor, Lincs and London Array) already approved by the EIB Board (December 2011). The transmission assets will comprise a single offshore platform (OSP), two 170kV subsea transmission cables approximately 41km in length, two onshore cables approximately 3km in length and connections at the onshore substation. WoDS wind farm lies in the east Irish Sea approximately 14km from the Cumbrian coast. The wind farm will have a capacity of approximately 389MW, it will comprise 108 wind generators of around 3.6MW unit capacity. WoDS was originally part of the OFTO Round 2B transitional regime along with Humber Gateway and Race Bank, however the latter two will now qualify under the enduring (Round 3) regime.

EIA Required: Yes

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

Undersea cables, substations and wind farms fall by virtue of their technical characteristics under Annex II of EIA-Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended). According to national regulations an offshore wind farm, including its associated infrastructure, is subject to a full mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) including public consultation. This sub-project has been subject to a comprehensive EIA as well as extensive public consultation. In 2002/03 and prior to the development of the project related EIAs, the UK government conducted a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in accordance with the SEA Directive¹, for its plan to develop offshore wind in its territory. Three large areas - the Thames estuary, the Greater Wash and the North West - identified by the government as being potentially suitable, were assessed.

For this particular sub-project the detailed EIA was produced in accordance with UK regulations and the EU directives (Habitats & Birds and EIA). An Appropriate Assessment according to the Habitats Directive was requested by the UK statutory authorities, and was carried out on the transmission infrastructure being considered under this project.

The various studies undertaken analysed potential impacts on the sea floor (sediment), water quality, fish populations, marine mammals and benthos organisms, bird populations, noise, shipping and navigation safety. Following a systematic assessment of the potential impacts arising from the proposed construction, operation and decommissioning of the transmission assets and wind farm, alone and in-combination with other developments in the eastern Irish Sea, it is concluded that in all cases the overall effects are likely to be negligible or low.

Based on the information available, the environmental assessment undertaken and results presented are acceptable for Bank financing.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (27 June 2001).

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment:

All the main statutory licences and consents have been obtained, i.e. FEPA (Deposits in the Sea in Connection with Marine Construction Works) Licence, Section 36 Consent including deemed planning permission (Construction and Operation of a Generating Station) and Section 34 Consent (Coastal Protection Installation of Subsea Cables).

The EIA for the proposed West of Duddon Sands (WoDS) transmission infrastructure (and wind farm) was undertaken to analyse in detail the development in relation to the existing environment, and to ensure that all potential environmental impacts were identified and assessed. The EIA examined the need for the project, the design of the transmission infrastructure, wind farm and associated works, as well as the construction, operation and decommissioning of the works and the elaboration of appropriate mitigation measures. A combination of field surveys, desktop surveys and modelling techniques were used to assess the potential impacts of the development on the environment. In addition detailed and extensive consultations were undertaken with statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees, interest parties and the public.