

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	<b>UK POWER NETWORKS UPGRADE</b>
Project Number:	20110419
Country:	UK
Project Description:	The project is a 3-year investment programme aimed at renovating and reinforcing the electricity distribution networks of three licensed Distribution Network Operators serving London, the East of England and the South East of England. The project comprises the implementation of a large number - several thousands - of electricity distribution schemes from low voltage up to 132 kV. The project also includes R&D activities involving the trial of "smart grid" functionalities to facilitate the move to a low carbon economy.
EIA:	Not required

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

None of the project schemes requires EIA, although environmental studies have been carried for some major schemes to accompany the planning applications and to support the public consultations required within the planning authorisation process. All the 132, 66 and 33 kV schemes involve reconstruction/extension of existing substations, reconductoring of existing lines and installation of underground cables. The planned few thousands of 11 kV and low voltage schemes fall below the threshold of the EIA directive and are expected to have minimal environmental impacts. For any works carried out in a conservation area or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) the promoter requested/will request the formal consent of the competent authority Natural England.

Overall the environmental impacts of the project are expected to be modest and mainly relate to noise, vibrations, dust, and traffic disruption during the construction phases and EMF and noise nuisance during operation. The environmental capacity of the promoter was reviewed by the Bank and is considered good. The promoter is therefore considered capable to implement the appropriate remedial measures to ensure that no significant impacts will arise from project's construction and operation. The project is acceptable to the Bank in environmental terms.

*The Finance Contract shall require as undertaking by the promoter to store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the Project supporting the compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives (Form A/B or equivalent declaration by the competent authority) and shall promptly upon request deliver such documents to the Bank.*

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Impact and Mitigation

Appropriate mitigating measures will be implemented to minimise impacts during construction and operation. In densely populated areas particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works. In proximity of sites of nature conservation importance construction works and restoration of sites will be executed with great care and avoiding breeding periods of wildlife species.