



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 19.12.2018

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	<b>NORTHERN POWERGRID NETWORK INVESTMENT</b>
Project Number:	2015-0155
Country:	United Kingdom
Project Description:	Investment Programme to refurbish upgrade and reinforce the distribution network of Northern Powergrid in the North East of England

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

Three of the project schemes required additional and appropriate environmental studies, though none of these required an EIA according to the EIA Directive.

The environmental studies were related to potential impacts to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and sensitive areas near the protected Great Crested Newt's Habitats and the requirement to fulfil specific competent authority conditions/requirements, due to the particular siting of a new distribution substation.

The three schemes were:

- (1) Thornton Dale – Whitby 66 kV underground cable, located within an SSSI/SEC area. The new cable is fully operational but dismantling process for the existing lattice towers works is currently at an advanced stage with Natural England as their assent is required before dismantling and the removal of the towers can commence.
- (2) Knaresborough 132 kV line alterations near the Great Crested Newts Habitat. Northern Powergrid Group and National Grid jointly worked very closely with an ecologist and a licence was obtained from Natural England before any construction work commenced. An effective working methodology was agreed in order to demonstrate due diligence and commitment to the surrounding area and this work is fully completed in compliance with the license conditions.
- (3) Harrogate 33/11 kV substation. This substation is located near the Spa Water Bottling factory and required appropriate building design and draining system in full consultation and agreement with the local Harrogate planning authorities.

In all three schemes, Northern Powergrid implemented the project in line with local, national and EU planning and environmental legal obligations and as required Habitat Regulations Assessments (screenings) have been conducted and submitted to the Competent Authority (Natural England) that have issued their Assent for the works and any associated licences. The Bank is not aware of any residual environmental issues resulting from these schemes.

The remaining project's schemes involving installations within the boundaries of existing substations, reconductoring of existing lines and installation of power cables, as well as the planned few thousands of medium/low voltage schemes did not require a full EIA and had minimal or no environmental impacts.

#### **Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

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