



<b>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)</b>	
<b>Project name:</b>	The Net Zero Teesside Project (previously known as the Proposed Teesside Cluster Carbon Capture & Usage Project).
<b>Address/Location:</b>	Land at the former Sahaviriya Steel Industries (SSI) Site, Redcar, South Teesside (for the generating station) and surrounding areas within the administrative boundaries of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton on Tees Borough Council (for the associated development including gas and water supply, an electrical grid connection, water discharge pipes and carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) gathering network).
<b>Planning Inspectorate Ref:</b>	EN010103
<b>Date(s) screening undertaken:</b>	First screening – 11 June 2019 following the Applicant’s request for a scoping opinion. Second screening – 10 November 2021 following submission of the application documents.

<b>FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING</b>	
<b>Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:</b>	Teesside Cluster Carbon Capture & Usage Project: Application for a Scoping Opinion (‘the Scoping Report’) dated February 2019.
<b>Screening Criteria:</b>	<b>The Inspectorate’s Comments:</b>
<b>Characteristics of the Development</b>	<p>The Proposed Development would comprise the onshore works of a full chain Carbon Capture Usage and Storage project. It includes the construction and operation of a gas-fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine generating station with a net electrical output of up to 2,100 megawatts. The generating station would require a gas and water supply, an electrical grid connection and water discharge pipes. Corridors have been identified for the gas, electrical and water connections and the CO<sub>2</sub> gathering pipes network.</p> <p>The Scoping Report does not identify the start date for construction, details of any potential phasing for the Proposed Development or information on how long the development would take to build. The Scoping Report does not contain any details regarding the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development.</p>

<p><b>Location of Development (including existing use) and Geographical area</b></p>	<p>The generating station, CO<sub>2</sub> capture equipment, cooling, transformers and auxiliary equipment would comprise the “Main Site” of the Proposed Development and would be located on the former Sahaviriya Steel Industries (SSI) site on the south bank of the River Tees estuary. The SSI site was previously used for iron and coke manufacture and comprises large scale plant and buildings with open areas of land previously utilised for raw materials storage and processing. The indicative boundary of the Main Site encompasses an area of approximately 52 hectares within the SSI site. The Main Site is located within an industrial area with a closed iron-making plant and the operational Redcar Bulk Terminal located to the northwest; the Northumbrian Water Bran Sands sewage treatment plant, operational land of PD Ports Teesport and the Wilton International industrial complex to the south; and similar industrial complexes to the west.</p> <p>Corridors have been identified for the gas, electrical and water connections and the CO<sub>2</sub> gathering pipes network; these are routed primarily through industrial complexes and along existing roads. The gas connection corridors and the CO<sub>2</sub> gathering pipe network would cross the River Tees. The water connection corridor extends out into the Tees Bay.</p> <p>The Applicant has not identified within the Scoping Report the nearest EEA state to the Proposed Development. No information is provided in the Scoping Report about any areas which could be affected which are within another EEA State.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Importance</b></p>	<p>The Scoping Report states that the water connection corridor is located within the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA), potential SPA (pSPA) and Ramsar site. These sites are located approximately 240m north of the SSI site (at its nearest point).</p> <p>A further three European sites are located within 15 km of the Main Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northumbria Coast SPA/ Ramsar site (approximately 14.6km north west);</li> <li>• Durham Coast Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (14.6km north west); and</li> <li>• North York Moors SAC/ SPA (11.5 km south east).</li> </ul> <p>The Scoping Report refers to wintering and passage birds but does not refer to specific species. Nor does it state whether any qualifying features of the designated sites are migratory species.</p> <p>The Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the water bodies in and around the application site has not been confirmed in the Scoping Report. It is stated that the assessment in the Environmental Statement will consider impacts relating to the WFD.</p>

<b>Potential impacts and Carrier</b>	<p>The Scoping Report identifies potential impacts, including via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• air (eg dust, particulate matter, stack and vehicle emissions, noise and vibration);</li> <li>• water (eg accidental spillages, polluted surface water-run off, cooling water abstraction and cooling water discharge); and</li> <li>• land (eg disturbance of historic contamination of the SSI site).</li> </ul>
<b>Extent</b>	<p>The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.</p>
<b>Magnitude</b>	<p>The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.</p>
<b>Probability</b>	<p>The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.</p>
<b>Frequency</b>	<p>The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.</p>
<b>Reversibility</b>	<p>The Scoping Report has not identified any impacts which would be likely to significantly affect the environment in another EEA State.</p>
<b>Cumulative impacts</b>	<p>The Scoping Report states that cumulative effects with other developments will be considered within the Environmental Statement; a list of nearby developments is given within the Scoping Report, between Chapter 6, Paragraphs 6.148 and 6.152. The Applicant has not identified any likely significant cumulative effects at this stage.</p>

**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 not 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 Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts), and taken into account the information currently supplied by the Applicant.

**Action:**

No further action required at this stage.

**Date: 11 June 2019**

**Note:** The SoS' duty under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations continues throughout the application process.

## SECOND TRANSBOUNDARY SCREENING

**Document(s) used for transboundary Screening:**

Net Zero Teesside Environmental Statement (July 2021)  
Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (July 2021)

**Date screening undertaken:**

Re-screened on 10 November 2021 on receipt of application documents

### **Transboundary re-screening undertaken by the Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS**

Following submission of the DCO application which included the Environmental Statement (ES) and the Applicant's Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) report, the transboundary screening has been reviewed.

The Inspectorate has identified the following matters that differ from those considered at the time of the previous transboundary screening decision:

#### **Change in the description of the Proposed Development**

The description of the Proposed Development is set out in the following chapters of ES Volume 1:

- ES Chapter 4 Proposed Development.
- ES Chapter 5 Construction Programme and Management.
- ES Chapter 6 Alternatives and Design Evolution – Table 6-1 presents a summary of design changes made during the period after preparation of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (and therefore after publication of the first transboundary screening decision) and submission of the Application.

There have been some modifications and further design details provided as part of the Application documents, including:

- a reduction in the net electrical output from up to 2,100MW to up to 860MW;
- a reduction in the number of combined cycle gas turbines (CCGT) from three to one;
- a reduction in the number of high pressure compressors from five to two;
- confirmation of the use of trenchless technologies, instead of open cut methods, for crossings required to facilitate the CO<sub>2</sub> export pipeline and water discharge corridor;
- removal of the requirement for water abstraction from the River Tees; and
- narrowing of route options for various pipelines, including the CO<sub>2</sub> gathering network, natural gas connection corridor, CO<sub>2</sub> export corridor, water discharge corridor and electrical connection corridor, with a consequent reduction in the extent of the DCO boundary/ land take).

#### **Cumulative effects**

The Applicant had not undertaken their cumulative and in-combination effects assessment at the time of the Inspectorate's previous transboundary screening decision.

ES Volume 1 Chapter 24 Cumulative and Combined Effects describes the Applicant's approach to and the outcomes of their cumulative assessment. The developments considered in the assessment are presented at ES Volume 2, ES Figure 24-2 Long List of

Other Developments and ES Figure 24-3 Short List of Other Developments. ES Volume 3, ES Appendix 24B; Assessment of Cumulative Effects – Stages 1-3 includes information used by the Applicant in the assessment. Whilst it will be subject to a separate marine licence consenting process, the assessment also includes consideration of the offshore component of the wider project, comprising the transport and storage infrastructure for captured CO<sub>2</sub> that is proposed to be directed and injected into a saline aquifer beneath the North Sea. No significant cumulative effects to EEA states are identified by the Applicant.

Table 7.1 of the HRA Report lists the plans and projects that were considered as part of the HRA in-combination assessment. This assessment also includes consideration of the offshore component of the wider project. The Applicant does not identify any SPAs or SACs outside of the UK where the Proposed Development would result in likely significant effects, either alone or in-combination.

### **Identification of LSE on European Sites including bird species and marine mammals in an EEA State/s**

Since the Inspectorate's previous transboundary screening decision in June 2019, the extension of the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar was confirmed in early 2020. The extension includes an area of dunes and pools immediately to the north east of the Proposed Development's Main Site, which are recognised as essential to maintaining the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar as the pools are used by overwintering birds for roosting, loafing and foraging.

The Applicant has also identified within its HRA report a number of additional European designated sites to those identified at scoping stage, which have potential impact pathways from the Proposed Development. This is due to qualifying features that are mobile species (including bird species, marine mammals and migratory fish) that may use functionally linked habitats beyond the designated site boundaries. The sites include:

- Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC (approximately 87km to the north);
- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC (approximately 174km to the south east);
- Humber Estuary SAC (approximately 110km to the south east);
- Southern North Sea SAC (approximately 102km to the east);
- River Tweed SAC (approximately 138km to the north west); and
- Tweed Estuary SAC (approximately 137km to the north west).

No designated European sites outside of the UK are identified in the Applicant's HRA report.

The Applicant's assessment of potential effects on marine ecology (ES Chapter 14) and ornithology (ES Chapter 15) concludes that there would be no likely significant residual effect on marine ecological or ornithological receptors following mitigation.

The impacts and potential effects considered in the assessments are described in each aspect chapter. For marine ecology, this includes assessment of direct habitat loss and physical disturbance, changes to water quality and soundscape, visual stimuli, collision risk, thermal and chemical effects from discharges and deposition of airborne pollutants. For ornithology, this includes temporary and permanent habitat loss, disturbance (noise and visual), and disturbance of marine birds from presence of work boats.

The Applicant's HRA report concludes that there would be no likely significant effects on the bird species, marine mammal and migratory fish qualifying features of the following European sites:

- Northumbria Coast SPA and Ramsar site – purple sandpiper, ruddy turnstone and little tern;
- Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC – grey seal;
- Humber Estuary SAC – sea lamprey and grey seal;

- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC – harbour seal;
- River Tweed SAC – Atlantic salmon and sea lamprey; and
- Tweed Estuary SAC – sea lamprey.

The Applicant's HRA report concludes that there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the bird species, marine mammal and migratory fish qualifying features of the following European sites:

- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar site – little tern, common tern, sandwich tern, pied avocet, knot, ruff, redshank and the waterbird assemblage;
- North York Moors SPA – merlin and golden plover; and
- Southern North Sea SAC – harbour porpoise.

Significant transboundary effects to migratory species which could be part of populations within EEA states are not therefore considered to be likely.

### **Other Potential LSE in an EEA State/s**

The Proposed Development is located within the immediate vicinity of Teesport, a major UK port, and the Redcar Bulk Terminal on the River Tees. The Applicant has undertaken a qualitative assessment of the impacts of the Proposed Development in respect of navigational risk to a variety of receptors in the marine environment, including large commercial vessels. The Navigational Risk Assessment is submitted as ES Volume 3 Appendix 20B. ES Chapter 20 Socio-economics concludes that there may be some minor adverse effects to vessels in the Tees Bay area and vessels using Teesport as a result of construction activity; however, these effects would be temporary in nature and non-significant.

Significant transboundary effects to EEA States in respect of marine navigation are therefore not considered to be likely by the Applicant.

Under Regulation 32 of the 2017 EIA Regulations and on the basis of the current information available from the Applicant, there is no change to the previous conclusion, and the Inspectorate remains of the view that the Proposed Development **is not 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 Note twelve: Transboundary Impacts); and taken into account the information currently supplied by the Applicant.

### **Action:**

No further action required at this stage.

No EEA States have been identified as being likely to have significant effects on their environment.

**Date:** 30 November 2021

**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 Note Twelve, available on our website at <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>