

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ELECTRICITY NW NETWORKS UPGRADE
Project Number:	2011-0551
Country:	United Kingdom
Project Description:	The project is a 3-year investment programme, running from 2013 to 2015, to refurbish and reinforce the regulated electricity distribution network of the promoter located in the north-west of England. The programme aims to renovate ageing assets, maintain and improve the quality of service to existing customers, ensure compliance with safety legislation, and reinforce the network where appropriate for demand increase. The programme consists of a large number of components, principally involving the upgrade and retrofit of overhead lines, underground cables and substations from low voltage distribution to high voltage transmission and the inclusion of a large number of new connection points.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

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

The characteristics and voltage range of the project schemes are such that they fall under Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive, thus leaving it to the competent authority to determine the need for an EIA. To date all schemes have been screened out by the competent authority thus no EIAs are required. The majority of the project schemes will be medium and low voltage and, as such, they are expected to have minimum environmental impacts. For these reasons the environmental impacts of the project are expected to be low and, in most cases, limited to disturbance during construction. The project is acceptable to the Bank in environmental terms.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Appropriate mitigating measures will be implemented to minimise impacts during construction works. In populated areas particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works. The promoter has obtained ISO14001 certification in relation to its environmental management system. The environmental capacity of the promoter is deemed to be good.

As part of the planning application process for the 132kV line, the competent authority confirmed that a formal EIA was not required given that the line did not pass through any SSSI site. However a landscape impact assessment was requested by the competent authority. This assessment concluded that no permanent adverse impacts are expected as a result of the project.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

The Finance Contract shall require as an 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.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The Project is not included in the carbon footprint exercise. The EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies only include emissions from Investment Loans, and large allocations under Framework Loans, above the methodology thresholds.