

4 SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

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4 SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

4.1 Introduction

EIA is the process of compiling, evaluating and presenting the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed development.

Regulation 5(1)(b) of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 (the EIA Regulations) states, inter alia: “An environmental impact assessment is a process consisting of - ... (b) *any consultation, publication and notification required by, or by virtue of, these Regulations or any other enactment in respect of EIA development.*” This chapter outlines the preparatory work undertaken to inform the EIA process, as well as the consultations undertaken with the DfI and relevant statutory and non-statutory agencies as applicable.

4.2 EIA Screening

4.2.1 EIA Screening Summary

A request for an EIA Screening Determination was submitted to the DfI in January 2020, pursuant to the terms of Regulations 8 and 12 of the EIA Regulations. The associated correspondence is provided in Volume III, Appendix 1.1.

In accordance with Regulation 8(3), the request for a Screening Determination was accompanied by supporting information to include the following:

- (a) A plan sufficient to identify the land;
- (b) A description of the development, including in particular –
 - i. A description of the physical characteristics of the development, and, where relevant, of demolition works;
 - ii. A description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected.
- (c) A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development;
- (d) To the extent the information is available, a description of any likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment resulting from –
 - i. The expected residues and emissions and the production of waste, where relevant; and
 - ii. The use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity.

Regulation 8(4) provides that the applicant, when making a request for a screening determination, may also provide a description of any features of the proposed development or any measures envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment. In that context the request for a formal screening determination was supported by submission of the following reports:

- Ecological Impact Assessment;
- Landscape and Visual Screening Assessment;
- Cultural Heritage Screening Assessment;
- Water Quality Screening Assessment;
- Fisheries & Aquatic Ecology Screening Assessment;
- Flood Risk Analysis (mapping);
- Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP).

The DfI issued its EIA Screening Determination on 8th December 2020. Within the body of the letter, the DfI stated the following:

“The Department is of the opinion that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment and hereby determines that the planning application must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement.”

The associated correspondence, including the DfI’s screening opinion, is provided in Volume III, Appendix 1.2. The associated correspondence, provided by consultees, in respect of the DfI’s screening exercise, are provided in Volume III, Appendix 1.3.

In accordance with Regulation 16(5) of the EIA Regulations, NIE Networks provided confirmation of its acceptance of the DfI’s decision, on 22nd December 2020; this correspondence is provided in Volume III, Appendix 1.4.

4.2.2 DFI Statement on EIA Screening

Section 6 (paragraph 6.1) of the DfI’s Screening Determination Report (Volume III, Appendix 1.2) provides the following statement on the *main reasons for the conclusion* including reference to having regard to the environmental information submitted in support of the EIA screening request, stating also that consultee comments have been taken into account:

“In reaching the conclusion that the proposed project must proceed by way of an Environmental Impact Assessment, the Department has had regard to the environmental information submitted including in particular the Ecological Impact Assessment EclA (with a confidential badger survey), Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment LVIA, Cultural Heritage Screening Assessment CHSA, Water Quality Screening Assessment WQSA, Fisheries & Aquatic Ecology Screening Assessment FAESA and the additional Fisheries & Aquatic Screening Assessment - Received 15.09.20 aFAESA, Flood Risk Analysis FRA and the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan OCEMP. It has also taken into account consultee comment.”

The DfI Screening Determination Report also states the following (at paragraph 4.2):

“The Department has taken into account the selection criteria set out in Schedule 3 [of the Regulations], as are relevant to the proposed development and as assessed in the screening determination matrix...”

This matrix is provided below along with direction as to where relevant matters are considered within the ES.

Table 4.1: DfI Screening Determination Matrix

Schedule 3 selection criteria as are considered relevant	Potential Impact (Yes/No/N/A) Briefly describe potential impact. If answer NO, the answer in the second column is N/A	Is this likely to result in a significant effect? (Yes/No/N/A) Include measures envisaged to avoid or prevent significant adverse impacts on the environment
SIZE AND DESIGN		
Will the proposed development be out of scale with the existing environment?	NO Overhead powerline infrastructure is widely present throughout parts of the rural landscape – whilst extensive in overall length it is not out of scale with the existing environment.	N/A
Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 1 Introduction, Chapter 2 Project Description and Chapter 5 Landscape and Visual.		
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS		
Are there potential cumulative impacts with other existing and/or approved developments	YES Visual impact with existing wind turbines, existing powerlines, the proposed mine served by this proposal, existing residential properties/rural	NO The Sperrin AONB is considered to have a high sensitivity to change and given the length of the proposed development and in combination with other developments it is considered there is the potential for significant visual

	development and consented turbines etc.	impacts. No landscape mitigation measures are proposed.
<p>Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 1 Introduction and chapters 5 – 17.</p>		
<p>USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES</p>		
Will the proposed development use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?	<p>YES</p> <p>The development by its nature of sourcing and erecting wooden poles, overhead wires and laying underground cabling will impact on the use of natural resources.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>Whilst the project, would result in the need for excavation of land to provide the infrastructure, and use of materials the effects are not considered to be significant. The main raw material is considered a renewable resource.</p>
Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the topography of the area?	<p>YES</p> <p>The development by its nature of erecting wooden poles and laying underground cabling will impact on the topography albeit it is unlikely to change significantly the topography of the area.</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>This is not considered to be a likely significant effect. The OCEMP indicates relatively small intrusive construction activities and it is not envisaged that there will be any significant change to the area's topography.</p>
Are there any areas on/around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project, e.g. forestry, agriculture, water/coastal, fisheries, minerals?	<p>YES</p> <p>There are important water courses that are home to pearl mussel and salmon.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>The OCEMP in support of the application sets the parameters in respect of water quality, fisheries and aquatic ecology, within which the detailed provisions of the final CEMP will be delivered. The OCEMP includes best practice for works in and around watercourses taking account of matters such as: structural integrity, site drainage, foul water disposal, silt management, fuels and material storage, monitoring, pollution prevention and emergency planning.</p> <p>The mitigation measures delivered through the CEMP are dependent on suitable planning conditions and a low risk for the various methodologies operating over an extensive area in a variety of terrains and ground conditions and habitat interests. The Department is not convinced that standard planning conditions will address all these matters and finds the potential remains for likely significant effects.</p>
<p>Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 2 Project Description, Chapter 8 Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology, Chapter 9 Water Quality and Appendix 2.2 OCEMP.</p>		
<p>PRODUCTION OF WASTE</p>		
Will the construction, operation or decommissioning of the proposed development produce wastes?	<p>YES</p> <p>There will be excavated earth and building materials during construction phase</p>	<p>NO</p> <p>With the mitigation measures proposed this is not considered to be a likely significant effect. It is considered the amount of waste arising from evacuations to lay</p>

		cable or set poles would not be significant and an amount of the excavated material will be reinstated where possible as backfill.
<p>Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 2 Project Description, Chapter 16 Waste Management and Appendix 2.2 OCEMP.</p>		
<p>POLLUTION AND NUISANCES</p>		
<p>Will the construction, operation or decommissioning phases of the proposed development release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to the air?</p>	<p>YES Potential for impacts on local air quality at construction phase due to use of machinery/plant, dust from excavation and construction traffic,</p>	<p>NO It is not considered that the nature of any of the construction excavation work would give rise to release of any hazardous, toxic or noxious airborne substances or be likely to have a significant effect upon air quality. It is considered that in line with best practice for construction phase, traffic management and dust control measures could be secured as necessary by condition in consultation with Environmental Health Departments.</p>
<p>Will the construction, operation or decommissioning of the proposed development lead to risk of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants?</p>	<p>YES Potential primarily for soil, mud and clay to be released into surrounding watercourses via surface water run-off, the potential removal of vegetation along watercourses, use and storage of fuels, oil for machinery and treatment of sewage facilities, and primarily during construction phase.</p>	<p>YES It is acknowledged the Owenkillev and Glenelly catchments in particular are highly sensitive receptors. The Owenkillev is an SAC and incorporates the Owenkillev River Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). The SAC features the largest population of freshwater pearl mussel in Northern Ireland. The OCEMP in support of the application sets the parameters in respect of water quality, fisheries and aquatic ecology, within which the detailed provisions of the final CEMP will be delivered. The mitigation measures are dependent on suitable planning conditions and a low risk for the various methodologies operating over an extensive area in a variety of terrains and ground conditions and habitat interests. The Department is not convinced that standard planning conditions will address all these matters and finds the potential remains for likely significant effects.</p>
<p>Will the construction, operation or decommissioning phases of the proposed development cause noise, vibration or the release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?</p>	<p>YES The proposed development will generate electric and magnetic fields (EMF) with potential for a noise impact. There is potential to generate noise from plant and machinery during construction phase</p>	<p>NO It is considered this is not a significant effect and EMF can be considered in consultation with Public Health Agency who can provide expert advice on the relevant ICNIRP guidelines. Likely significant environmental effects arising from vibration and</p>

		noise during construction can be controlled through restrictions on hours or operation for construction.
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Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 2 Project Description, Chapter 7 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology, Chapter 8 Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology, Chapter 9 Water Quality, Chapter 11 Population and Human Health, Chapter 12 Air Quality, Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration and Appendix 2.2 OCEMP.

MAJOR ACCIDENTS

Will there be any risk of major accidents (including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge) during construction, operation or decommissioning?	YES Potential for human error that could impact on the environment	NO As with most construction operations there is a risk of major accidents happening. In carrying out the operations, workers must adhere to the Health and Safety at Work (NI) regulations and expert advice can be sought from HSENI through the consultation process. It is considered this is not a likely significant effect and can be mitigated by appropriate condition.
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Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 17 Major Accidents and Disasters.

HUMAN HEALTH

Will the project present a risk to the population (having regard to population density) and their human health during construction, operation or decommissioning? (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)	YES Potentially there could be impact on the human health of the surrounding population in terms of use of plant equipment, material transportation and possible dust from construction operations.	NO With the mitigation measures proposed this is not considered to be a likely significant effect. Advice will also be taken from Public Health Agency as part of the consultation process and appropriate conditions can be applied to implement any agreed CEMP measures. Dust pollution is not considered to be a likely significant effect given the nature of the development. Where any small and localised impacts arise dust control measures could be secured by condition in consultation with Environmental Health Departments if necessary.
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Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 11 Population and Human Health, Chapter 12 Air Quality and Chapter 14 Noise and Vibration.

LAND USE

Are there existing and/or approved land uses or community facilities on or around the location which could be affected by the project? E.g. housing, densely populated areas, industry / commerce, farm/agricultural holdings, forestry, tourism, mining, quarrying, facilities relating to health, education, places of worship, leisure / sports / recreation	YES The majority of the land use that the proposal traverses is rural in nature, therefore there could be potential impact on local residents, farming activities and tourism etc.	YES Given the extent of the development it is not established that there would not be likely significant effects on residential amenity. 208 properties and clusters of properties are identified within the 500m corridor. The outlook from a number of these properties has the potential to be significantly impacted and a residential visual amenity assessment should be carried out as part a wider residential amenity
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		assessment. A likely significant effect cannot be precluded.
Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 5 Landscape and Visual.		
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT		
<p>Are there any areas on or around the application site that are protected under international or national legislation for their ecological, landscape, cultural heritage or other value which could be affected by the construction, operation or decommissioning of the proposed development?</p> <p>Are there any protected areas which are designated or classified for their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, or any non-designated / non-classified areas which are important or sensitive for reasons of their terrestrial, avian and marine ecological value, located on or around the location and which could be affected by the project? (e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other water-bodies, the coastal zone, mountains, forests or woodlands, undesignated nature reserves or parks. (Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local))).</p> <p>Could any protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna which use areas on or around the site, e.g. for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over-wintering, or migration, be affected by the project?</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>The majority of the proposed development falls with the Sperrin AONB. A portion of the proposed development spans the Owenkillew River, a designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and therefore a European Site. This is also an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). The Owenkillew and Owenreagh Rivers are within the River Foyle and its tributaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - supports significant numbers of Atlantic Salmon and Otter.</p> <p>The Owenkillew River is an SAC and incorporates the Owenkillew River Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), Drumlea and Mullan Woods and Owenkillew and Glenelly Woods ASSI. The SAC features the largest population of freshwater pearl mussel in Northern Ireland. Also includes salmon, otter, bog woodland, water crowfoot and old woodlands.</p> <p>Owenreagh River ASSI for the feature of freshwater pearl mussel.</p> <p>Also possible impact on peat which supports blanket bog and wet heath habitats which are priority habitat under Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Potential impact on protected species such as otter, badger, newt, common lizard, breeding birds and fritillary marsh butterfly.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>It is considered that there will be likely significant effects on designated sites, habitats and species.</p> <p>The mitigation measures are dependent on suitable planning conditions and a low risk for the various methodologies operating over an extensive area in a variety of terrains and ground conditions and habitat interests. The Department is not convinced that standard planning conditions will address all these matters and finds the potential remains for likely significant effects.</p> <p>At least one species will require further survey work to assess impact.</p>
Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 7 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology, Chapter 8 Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology, Chapter 9 Water Quality and Appendix 2.2 OCEMP.		
WATER RESOURCES		
<p>Are there any water resources including surface waters, e.g. rivers, lakes/ponds, coastal or underground waters on or</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>There is potential for impacts to occur on surface</p>	<p>NO</p>

<p>around the location which could be affected by the project, particularly in terms of their volume and flood risk? Are there any groundwater source protection zones or areas that contribute to the recharge of groundwater resources which could be affected by the proposed development?</p>	<p>water and ground water quality. Potential for run off into sensitive receiving water courses.</p>	<p>It is considered that the risk of flooding in the development corridor is low. Whilst there is potential for temporary impoundment for some minor streams it is not considered a significant effect in terms of affecting water volume. In terms of ground water impacts, the poles, when sunk into the ground may release some contamination due to the protecting coats they will be covered in, however it is not considered nor is there evidence to suggest these are likely to be significant and can be fully assessed as part of the consultation process with NIEA.</p>
<p>Are there any areas on or around the location of the proposed development where environmental quality standards are already exceeded which could be affected by the proposed development?</p>	<p>NO DfI Planning are not aware of any documented evidence to suggest there are any specific areas in the proximity of this proposal where there are issues with environmental quality standards.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 7 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology, Chapter 8 Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology, Chapter 9 Water Quality and Appendix 2.2 OCEMP.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

<p>Are there any areas or features on or around the location which are protected for their landscape and scenic value, and/or any non- designated / non-classified areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project? Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local). Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?</p>	<p>YES The route is largely within the Sperrin AONB (nationally important) and will traverse 4 different landscape character areas. Circa 28km will be over ground. Given the length of the powerline route it is considered that it will have impacts for both local residents and to the wider community who may visit the locality for tourist or recreation purposes.</p>	<p>YES The Sperrin AONB in parts is considered to have a high sensitivity to change; whilst wooden pole overhead lines are not uncharacteristic in parts of the route corridor, given the length of the route, in parts over an open elevated landscape, and in combination with other developments it is considered that there is potential for likely significant environmental effects. Of the 208 dwellings identified within the 500 metre corridor, the screening assessment judges all to be minor/moderate with respect to their experience of visual effects (Table 10). Given the number of properties along the length of the line corridor it is considered that a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) would provide additional information to assess whether the development is likely to result in visual changes which significantly affect the quality of life or living conditions of residents – which would also assist in assessing wider residential amenity</p>
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		<p>issues. The potential of likely significant effects arising from the outlook from neighbouring properties cannot be excluded. Potential of the 11 viewpoints selected to illustrate the existing visual context is queried as well as the significance of the impacts.</p> <p>A likely significant effect cannot be precluded.</p>
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Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 5 Landscape and Visual.

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

<p>Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the proposed development? Are there any transport routes on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the development?</p>	<p>YES The development has potential to have an impact in terms of increase traffic movements and volume of vehicles on the road network, mostly during construction phase. Potential impact on laying of underground cables along parts of road network</p>	<p>NO Impacts will be concentrated at the construction phase for a period circa 12-18 months and therefore not long term. With the projected vehicle trip numbers (Table 4.2 of the OCEMP) and using mostly the existing road network during the construction phase (Appendix C of the OCEMP) it is not considered to be a likely significant effect.</p>
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Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 2 Project Description and Chapter 15 Traffic.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

<p>Are there any areas or features which are protected for their cultural heritage or archaeological value, or any non-designated / classified areas and/or features of cultural heritage or archaeological importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project (including potential impacts on setting, and views to, from and within)? Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local).</p>	<p>YES Based on the available information there are scheduled monument sites in proximity to the route of the line, a number of industrial heritage sites (bridges) and a number of listed buildings.</p>	<p>YES Mitigation is proposed to include exclusion zones at construction phase within the vicinity of identified/recorded/potential archaeological monuments. A licensed archaeological monitoring programme to be implemented at early construction phase and post evaluation excavation reporting as necessary. It is considered the project has the potential to have a likely significant effect on cultural heritage (e.g.: on the setting of a group of prehistoric monuments in Culvacullion and Trinamadan townlands) by introducing an incongruous form of development into parts of the upland landscape. This impact has not been sufficiently mitigated and the impact is thus likely to be significant It is not considered that there are likely significant effects on the various listed buildings along the proposed route. There is no LB's within the 200m corridor and only two within 1km.</p>
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Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 6 Cultural Heritage.

TRANSBOUNDARY		
Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects?	YES The project is hydrologically linked to the River Finn SAC; there is potential for sediments or contaminants to impact this watercourse through surface water runoff. There may be transboundary visual impact from the project	NO Given the distance from the receiving streams it is unlikely that there will be significant transboundary effects. It is considered they may be some transboundary visual impacts at the northern point of the line with County Donegal however given the distance and nature of the proposal it is considered these are unlikely to have a significant transboundary visual impact.
Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 1 Introduction and chapters 5 – 17.		
STABILITY		
Is the location susceptible to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, or extreme /adverse climatic conditions?	N/A	N/A
Note – Matters relevant to the above named criteria are considered in Chapter 13 Climate and Greenhouse Gases and Chapter 17 Major Accidents and Disasters.		

4.3 Additional Stakeholder Engagement

4.3.1 Pre-Application Engagement

Pre-application discussions were undertaken with NIEA Natural Environment Division (NED) in October 2017 to discuss the extent and scope of ornithological surveys to be undertaken in respect of the Proposed Development.

A methodology, study area and timing for surveys was agreed with NED and subsequently employed in the completion of field work, informing the ecological survey for birds (as detailed within Chapter 7 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology).

Additionally the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) were also consulted, requesting breeding bird season data gathered during the Bird Atlas 2007-2011 within the area of the Proposed Development.

4.3.2 EIA Screening Stakeholder Engagement

During the processing of the DfI’s EIA Screening exercise, a review was undertaken of consultee responses as received by the Department. Upon review, consideration was given to the content of Loughs Agency response (dated July 2020) with subsequent meetings undertaken between the applicant, members of the environmental consultancy team and DfI.

A subsequent updated Fisheries and Aquatic Ecological report was submitted, to address comments raised by Loughs Agency and included further data, compiled from further electrofishing surveys (under permit), as detailed within Chapter 8 Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology.

4.3.3 Additional Stakeholder Engagement

During the processing of the DfI’s EIA Screening exercise, the opportunity was taken to complete additional ecological surveys which were not undertaken (due to access or seasonal restrictions) during the 2019 field work season, which informed the Ecological Impact Assessment report, submitted with the screening request; this information is provided within Chapter 7 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology.

Engagement with NIEA’s Wildlife Licensing Team was undertaken in order to assist in the completion of targeted surveys during 2020 which were in addition to an updated extended phase 1 habitat survey, completed in the same year. Additional works included surveys for smooth newt and common lizard, badgers, marsh fritillary and

bat roost (Potential Roost Features [PRF] inspection surveys); this information is provided Chapter 7 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology.

Also in advance of the submission of the EIA Screening request and in preparation of the Fisheries and Aquatic Ecological Screening Assessment, engagement was undertaken with Loughs Agency to obtain appropriate permits to undertake electrofishing of targeted watercourses in proximity to the Proposed Development; this information is provided within Chapter 8 Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology.

4.3.4 Post EIA Screening Stakeholder Engagement

Upon receipt and review of the DfI’s EIA Screening Determination and in consideration of the detailed content and volume of information provided by DfI and consultees, a formal EIA scoping was not undertaken. Alternatively a request was made for additional engagement with both the DfI and a number of consultees, in order to discuss specific matters raised and to agree an appropriate scope of works, to inform the preparation of the ES.

Matters for further consideration were noted as follows:

Consultee / Department	Discipline / EIA Topic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfI Planning DAERA 	Landscape and Visual
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfI Planning 	Outline CEMP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfI Planning NIEA Natural Environment Division 	Ecology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfI Planning DfC Historic Environment Division 	Cultural Heritage

4.3.4.1 Landscape and Visual

Summary of Matters Arising from DfI Screening (in consideration of the planning applications materials and the associated Landscape and Visual Screening Assessment):

- The high sensitivity to change of the Sperrin AONB;
- Request for a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA);
- Number of viewpoints selected to illustrate existing visual context;
- Query of significance of impacts is queried as well as the significance of the impacts.

A request was made for a meeting with DfI and DAERA NIEA Countryside Coast and Landscape to discuss the above matters. Whilst a face to face meeting was not forthcoming, DfI provided direction (following discussion with DAERA NIEA Countryside Coast and Landscape staff) in respect of these matters; this correspondence is provided in Volume III, Appendix 4.1.

Chapter 5 Landscape and Visual of the ES has been prepared in consideration of the matters raised by DfI and addresses them accordingly.

4.3.4.2 Outline CEMP

Summary of Matters Arising from DfI Screening (in consideration of the planning applications materials and the associated OCEMP):

- Mitigation measures included within the OCEMP are dependent on suitable planning conditions and a low risk for the various methodologies operating over an extensive area in a variety of terrains and ground conditions and habitat interests.
- The DfI is not convinced that standard planning conditions will address all these matters and finds the potential remains for likely significant effects.

In further consideration of the OCEMP, in addition to the consultation response provided by DAERA NIEA as part of the EIA Screening exercise, DAERA NIEA provided a further consultation response (dated 26.02.21) (included in Volume III, Appendix 4.2).

A subsequent meeting was held (24.03.21) with representatives of NIE Networks, RPS, DAERA NIEA and DfI to discuss the comments provided in the aforementioned correspondence. The conclusion and agreed course of action in respect of the provision of an updated OCEMP (as part of the ES) and the information to be contained therein, is confirmed in correspondence provided in Volume III, Appendix 4.3, as follows:

- “Clarification that information requested in the NIEA written response is not indicative of an absence of that information within our screening documents as previously submitted;
- Agreement that it is appropriate at this time to submit high level or generalist information on some items, such as the directional drilling, to illustrate a general approach to the works;
- Further detailed information to be submitted within a detailed CEMP as a condition of any planning consent, which will allow input from an appointed drilling contractor;
- NIEA provided direction and reference on pollution prevention measures- we will ensure these are referenced in our proposals.”

The OCEMP (Volume II, Appendix 2.2) has been prepared in consideration of the matters raised by the DfI and DAERA NIEA and addresses them accordingly. The OCEMP will provide a framework from which a final CEMP will be developed and will be adhered to by the appointed contractor.

4.3.4.3 Ecology

Summary of matters arising from the DfI screening (in consideration of the planning applications materials and the associated Ecological Impact Assessment) included the potential impact on protected species such as otter, badger, newt, common lizard, breeding birds and fritillary marsh butterfly, noting *“at least one species will require further survey work to assess impact.”*

As noted in Section 4.3.3, post submission of the planning applications and the EIA Screening request, further field work was undertaken in 2020, in respect of targeted surveys for smooth newt and common lizard, badgers, marsh fritillary and bats. An overview of these surveys was provided to both the DfI and DAERA NIEA in the aforementioned meeting (24.03.21) with confirmation that details of the same would be provided within the ES.

Chapter 7 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology has been prepared in consideration of the matters raised by the DfI and DAERA NIEA and addresses them accordingly.

4.3.4.4 Cultural Heritage

Summary of Matters Arising from the DfI Screening (in consideration of the planning applications materials and the associated Cultural Heritage Screening Assessment):

- Potential effect on the setting of a group of prehistoric monuments in Culvacullion and Trinamadan townlands.

A meeting between representatives of the DfI, DfC Historic Environment Division (HED), NIE Networks, RPS and John Cronin Associates was held (02.02.21) to discuss the aforementioned matters. Discussion focused upon the concerns of DfC HED, wider design and environmental considerations which influenced the overhead line route (topography, technical restrictions [span lengths], ecological constraints) and the design options available to address concerns.

A subsequent site meeting between representatives of HED, NIE Networks and John Cronin Associates was held (21.04.21) at the location of the Proposed Development, within the townlands of Culvacullion and Trinamadan (Slievemore Hill) to discuss potential measures to alleviate the potential impacts on the monuments in the locale.

A subsequent amendment of the proposed overhead line route and the associated placement of poles 2216 – 2228 has been provided in planning drawing number 698-1-23; this amendment has the effect of reducing the amount of the overhead line that breaks the skyline over Slievemore hill and thus has the potential to reduce the overall visual impact on the aforementioned heritage assets.

Chapter 6 Cultural Heritage of the ES has been prepared in consideration of the matters raised by DfC HED, the subsequent amendment and addresses them accordingly.