



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Our ref: 12.04.09.05-1459U
Your ref: JL/YC14526

21 December 2021

Dear Mr Wade

**SCREENING OPINION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER THE ELECTRICITY WORKS
(ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2017 (“THE
2017 REGULATIONS”)**

SCREENING DECISION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Screening decision for a proposed development to rebuild and divert approximately 3.8 kilometres of an existing 66kV overhead line and install thirty-four (34) electricity wood poles with a maximum height of 18 metres between Dinnington and Tickhill Road, Maltby (the “proposed works”).

The proposed works require Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and are subject to the 2017 Regulations.

The Secretary of State has considered the factors set out in Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations, together with the information within the supplied documentation (“the Application”) by Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed works and the views of the Rotherham Council. In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

- The proposed works do not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
- The proposed works fall under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area;
- The proposed works are to rebuild and divert an already existing section of overhead line;
- The proposed works involve the replacement of one (1) pole within the Roche Abbey Woodlands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Two other statutorily designated



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sites are located within 1 kilometre of the proposed works: Maltby Common Local Nature Reserve and Wood Lee Common SSSI. However any potential effects to these sites will be mitigated subject to the implementation of adequate measures as detailed in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) being submitted to and approved in writing by the Rotherham Council prior to start of the proposed works. The CEMP will include (but not limited to) all measures identified in the EcoCheck environmental report submitted by the Applicant (report dated 15 October 2019, ref. WNT69105-407 (00));

- The Application indicates that the proposed have the potential to affect habitats suitable to support protected species, breeding birds and roosting bats. However any potential impact to protected species and breeding birds will be mitigated via ground and arial inspections being carried out by a competent ecologist prior to the start of the proposed works. The ecologist shall advise the Applicant on species-specific working method statements (in agreement with the Rotherham Council) should any evidence of the above species be found;
- The Application does not suggest there will be any cumulative adverse effects given that the proposal is to divert an existing section of overhead line which will be removed after the proposed works are completed, the new lines and pylons will be of similar size and structure to the existing ones;
- A representation made by the Hunter Archaeology Society to the Rotherham Council, during their consultations advised that a desktop assessment of the known and potential heritage assets along the route should be made and that an archaeological monitoring should be implemented at the site of poles replacement (form B dated 20 September 2021, ref. RB2021-1680). However the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service considered that there are no known archaeological remains that would require mitigation along the route of the proposed works and that whilst there is possibility of encountering previously unknown archaeological remains, the small footprint of the excavations required is likely to have a limited impact, confirming that they have no concerns and no objections to the proposed works on archaeological grounds (e-mail dated 22 April 2021);
- The Application suggests that the proposed works do not pass through any designated heritage assets. The closest scheduled monument is the Castle Hill motte and bailey castle located at approximately 70 metres from route of the new line at its closest point and no harm is anticipated to arise from the proposal to the heritage significance of this monument. In addition, the existing line which is currently installed closer to the scheduled monument will be removed after the proposed works are completed. However the Applicant will be required to agree with the Rotherham Council an archaeological watching brief programme prior to the works commencing to ensure that any archaeological remains which may be disturbed are appropriately recorded and protected;
- Rotherham Council have considered that the proposal is not an EIA development (form B dated 20 September 2021, ref. RB2021-1680);
- Natural England have issued assent under Section 28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (As Amended) with no conditions for the proposed works within the Roach Abbey Woodland SSSI (letter dated 27 May 2021, ref. 0505211033AH);

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, the Secretary of State concludes that the proposed works do not require a statutory EIA as they are unlikely to have



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significant effects on the environment due to their nature, location and size. A copy of this letter has been sent to Rotherham Council for information.

Yours sincerely,

Francesco Marolda
Overhead Lines Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning