



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1843u  
Your ref: Harker Energy Enablement Temporary Diversion at V28

10 May 2024

Dear Mrs Pickard,

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

**NAME OF SCHEME: Harker Energy Enablement: Temporary Diversion at  
V28**

Decision:

The Secretary of State concludes that the proposed works are not EIA development under the 2017 Regulations and do not require a statutory EIA as they are unlikely to have significant effects on the environment due to their nature, location and size. A copy of this letter has been sent to the LPA for information.

Screening decision for a proposed development (“the proposed development”) to:

- Erect one new 132kV tower to form a temporary diversion whilst Harker substation upgrades are carried out – the diversion will be in place for a time period exceeding 6 months.
- Install a haul road tower V28 by importing and laying type 1 roadstone and install stone pads in the area for storage and tower assembly. The haul



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road and stone pads will be removed from site and the land reinstated following completion of the proposed development.

### Secretary of State considerations:

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 National Grid PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Cumberland Council (“the LPA”). In reaching her decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA).
2. The proposed development falls under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is 132 kilovolts and therefore requires a mandatory screening.
3. The proposed development falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) related to Goose & Swan functional land and the River Eden & Tributaries SSSI/Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is approximately 2.5km to the east of the proposed development.
4. The proposed development is situated directly adjacent to the Rockcliffe Beck watercourse which hydrologically links the site to the River Eden SSSI/SAC.
5. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and had no objection. The LPA concluded that the proposed development is not considered to be an EIA development (ref: 24/0053/ENQ).
6. A Level 1 & 2 Historic Environment Assessment was carried out on behalf of the Applicant by WSP Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited. The subsequent “Harker Overhead Line” report was issued on 31 January 2023 which concluded that the towers associated with the proposed development do not interact with any heritage records or features directly, and therefore no further action is required.
7. An Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) was carried out on behalf of the Applicant by WSP Environment & Infrastructure Solutions UK Limited. The subsequent “Harker Energy Enablement Project – Application Under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989: Site V028” report was issued on 3 November 2023 based on field surveys carried out on 26 October 2022, 10 November 2022, and 4&7 July 2023. The report concluded that, after completing a Scoping of



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Assessment, no ecological features remained scoped in for assessment and the significance of effects.

8. Historic England were consulted and confirmed in communications on 18 December 2023 that they were not offering advice with regards to the proposed development.
9. Natural England were consulted and provided the following advice in communications on 24 January 2024: “Adherence to the measures and best practice outlined in the Ecological Impact Assessment and, due to the nature of the works proposed, Natural England concludes that this development will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the protected sites. It should be noted that the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will need to be secured through Condition and should detail all pollution prevention measures that will be implemented during the works. Appropriate pollution prevention guideline measures should include materials and machinery storage, biosecurity, and the control and management of noise, fugitive dust, surface water runoff, and waste to protect any surface water drains, Rockcliffe Beck, and the SAC from sediment and pollutants such as fuel and cement. Most of this has been covered by the best practices section of the EclA report.”
10. Historic England were consulted and confirmed in communications on 18 December 2023 that they were not offering advice with regards to the proposed development.
11. Public Notices regarding the proposed development were posted in local newspapers from 10 April 2024 to 1 May 2024. No representations were received regarding the proposed development by the deadline of 8 May 2024.
12. The proposed development has the potential to impact the River Eden SAC due to its hydrological connection with Rockcliffe Beck; however, if the best practices outlined in the EclA report and recommendations by Natural England are implemented by the Applicant there is negligible likelihood of these impacts occurring.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna  
Head of Network Planning team  
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