



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Mr Sean Stokoe  
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Our ref: 1676u  
Your ref: NATI-27172

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024

Dear Mr Stokoe,

**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: 4TF078 HAWTHORN PIT**

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:

- Re-align a 132 kV, 304 metre overhead line to facilitate connection to a new 400 kV substation
- Install a new 132kV tower at a height of 46 metres
- Install new downloads, connecting the new tower to the substation



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### 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 Electricity Transmission (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Durham County Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his 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 also falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with Hesledon Moor West SSSI.
4. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) was produced out on behalf of the Applicant by AECOM in May 2022. The CEMP outlined mitigations such as adherence to pollution prevention measures and preparing a soil management plan.
5. The Environment Agency (EA) was consulted by the applicant and responded on 21 September 2022. The EA noted that whilst they are not a statutory consultee for Section 37 applications, that they provide planning advice. They proposed the applicant should undertake an appropriate controlled waters risk assessment which should consider piling activities and should demonstrate no unacceptable risk to controlled waters (ref: NA/2022/116009/01-L01). The applicant has considered this advice as part of their Environmental Appraisal Report (ref: Scotland England Green Link 1- English Onshore Scheme Section 37 application for overhead line works (Electricity Act 1989).
6. Historic England (HE) was consulted by the applicant and advised on 27 September 2022 that the development would have minimal impact on the local historic environment.
7. The applicant consulted with Natural England (NE) regarding the SSSI IRZ. NE responded on 26 October 2022, that they do not consider that the proposed works will result in significant environmental effects on the site (ref: 349986).
8. An Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) was carried out on behalf of the Applicant by AECOM in November 2022 (ref: Scotland England Green Link 1- English Onshore Scheme Section 37 application for



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overhead line works (Electricity Act 1989). The EAR concluded that the works do not have the potential to cause significant effects.

9. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and had no objection. On 22 November 2022, the LPA concluded that the proposed development is not considered to be an EIA development (ref: SCR/22/00010).
10. Secretary of State requested for the applicant to provide Public Notices regarding the proposed development in accordance with The Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990. The notices were published in The Northern Echo from 25 April 2024 to 9 May 2024. No representations were received regarding the proposed development.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna  
Head of Network Planning team  
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team