



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1842u

Your ref: Harker Energy Enablement Duck Under at AL68

1st August 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: Duck Under at AL68

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 two new 132kV towers to form a ‘duck under’ arrangement at existing tower AL68.
- Install a haul road by importing and laying type 1 roadstone and install stone pads in the area for storage and tower assembly. The haul road and stone pads will be removed from site and the land reinstated following completion of the proposed development.



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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 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 does not fall within any sensitive areas.
4. 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: 24/0052/ENQ).
5. 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.
6. 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 AL068” report was issued on 17 October 2023 based on field surveys carried out on 13, 20 & 21 October 2022, 13 December 2022, and 7 July 2023. The surveys identified badger activity closed to the proposed development, with 2 ‘well used’ setts identified within 15 metres of the proposed work site. The report identified a number of ‘embedded environmental measures’, including pre-construction update surveys and protected species licences, and concluded that if these measures are followed the impact on badgers would be ‘not significant’. After completing a Scoping of Assessment, no other ecological features remained scoped in for assessment and the significance of effects.



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7. Historic England were consulted and confirmed in communications on 18 December 2023 that they were not offering advice with regards to the proposed development.
8. Natural England were consulted and confirmed in communications on 8 January 2024 they had no comment to make on the proposed development (Natural England reference: 462242).
9. 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.

Yours sincerely,

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