



Department for
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Our ref: 2082u
Your ref: Pelham Substation Line Diversion

5 March 2025

Dear Mr Senior,

**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: PELHAM SUBSTATION OVERHEAD LINE DIVERSION

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:

- Install approximately 620 metres of 400kV overhead line onto existing towers
- Remove four existing towers and 1.05km of 400kV overhead line



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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 Energy Transmission (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of East Herts District Council and Uttlesford District Council (“the LPA”). 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 400 kilovolts and therefore requires a mandatory screening.
3. The proposed development does not fall within any designated sensitive areas.
4. Ecological walkover surveys were carried out at the site of the proposed development between February and July 2023 and the subsequent “Ecology Technical Note Survey” was issued on 04 October 2023 by WSP. The site is in an agricultural setting surrounded by arable land, woodland, and scrub. Surveys identified two active badger setts, habitats for commuting and foraging bats, and breeding birds. A pond 40m away from tower 4ZM080A contains a small Great Crested Newt population. The annex badger sett is beneath tower 4ZM079A with the main sett located at a woodland boundary. Given these findings, Natural England mitigation licenses will be required before work begins in areas where these protected species may be affected. To minimise ecological impacts, vegetation clearance will be scheduled outside the bird nesting season. Additionally, measures such as using sensitive construction lighting implemented as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan to mitigate effects on commuting and foraging bats.
5. The Applicant produced an Arboricultural Impact Assessment in January 2024. The development will result in the removal of one low-quality group and partial removal of one moderate-quality group. Tree loss will be minimised and compensated through replacement planting. Tree pruning and crown reduction for construction access and lateral clearance may be required.
6. The Applicant conducted an Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) assessment in February 2024. The assessment confirmed that the proposed modification to the overhead line complies with relevant EMF exposure limits and precautionary policies.



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7. Public Notices regarding the proposed development were posted in local newspapers from 7 March 2024 to 21 March 2024. No representations were received by the deadline of 11 April 2024.
8. The Applicant consulted with Uttlesford District Council who had no objection to the development and concluded that an EIA is not required on 5 April 2024 (planning reference: UTT/24/0608/OHL).
9. A Tree Endoscope Inspection Report was produced in September 2024. The survey found while the Ash tree has potential to support roosting bats, there are no signs of current use, and no further surveys are required.
10. The Applicant consulted with East Herts District Council who had no objection to the development and concluded that an EIA is not required on 12 November 2024 (planning reference: 3/24/0467/SCREEN).

Yours sincerely,

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