



DIRECTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO (“THE SECRETARY OF STATE”) UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008 RELATING TO THE EASTERN GREEN LINK 5 PROJECT

By letter to the Secretary of State received on 17 April 2025, National Grid Electricity Transmission (“the Applicant”) formally requested that the Secretary of State exercise the power vested in him under section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008 to direct that an onshore converter station in Lincolnshire, England, as set out in the Direction request (“the Proposed Development”), be treated as development for which development consent under the Planning Act 2008 is required.

The Secretary of State notes that the Direction request of 17 April 2025 relates to—

- A converter station in East Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

The Proposed Development forms part of the Applicant’s proposed Eastern Green Link 5 project (“the Proposed Project”), a transmission and reinforcement project. The Secretary of State concludes that the Proposed Project is an energy project within the scope of section 35 of the Planning Act 2008.

Noting the above, and further that East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council support the request, the Secretary of State is satisfied that—

- The Proposed Project sits within one of qualifying infrastructure fields listed in section 35(2)(a)(i) (energy) and that the Proposed Project will be wholly within England, waters adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea or the Renewable Energy Zone (in relation to which the Scottish Ministers do not have functions);
- The Proposed Project does not fall within the existing definition of a “nationally significant infrastructure project” and therefore it is appropriate to consider use of the power in section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008; and
- The Applicant’s request constitutes a “qualifying request” in accordance with section 35ZA(11) of the Planning Act 2008.

Having considered the details of the Applicant’s proposals as set out in their letter of 17 April 2025 the Secretary of State concludes that the Proposed Project is nationally significant, for the reasons set out in the Annex below.

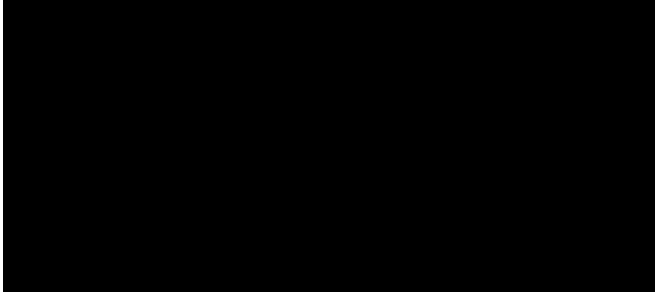
The Secretary of State considers that if the details of the Proposed Project change, before submitting any application to the Planning Inspectorate, the Applicant may wish to seek confirmation from the Secretary of State that the development that is the subject of the proposed application is the same as that for which the Direction is hereby given.

The Secretary of State has taken the decision within the conditions as required by sections 35A(2) and (5) of the Planning Act 2008 and issues this Direction accordingly under sections 35(1) and 35ZA of the Planning Act 2008.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE DIRECTS that the Proposed Development is to be treated as development for which development consent is required.

This Direction is given without prejudice to the Secretary of State's consideration of any application for development consent which is made in relation to the proposed Development.

Signed by



David Wagstaff OBE
Head of Energy Infrastructure Development
For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero

14 May 2025

ANNEX

REASONS FOR THE DECISION TO ISSUE THE DIRECTION

The Secretary of State is of the opinion that the Direction should be issued because—

- The Proposed Development is necessary to deliver the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project is of national significance, taking into account that it forms part of a 2 gigawatt transmission reinforcement project that will transmit low carbon electricity from its generation in Scotland to England.
- The Proposed Project could play an important role in meeting the Net Zero 2050 target by supporting to connect 23 gigawatts of new offshore wind generation to the UK electricity grid. The Proposed Project has been identified as 'Essential' in the Electricity System Operator's Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design and has been provisionally granted Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment 'accelerated' status by Ofgem.
- Progressing the Proposed Development as 'authorised development' to the Proposed Project through the Planning Act 2008 development consent process would provide the certainty of a single, unified consenting process and fixed timescales.