

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

Contact: Joe O'Sullivan

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Date: 27 January 2025

Emily Fitzpatrick  
National Grid Electricity Transmission  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Crossgates House  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS15 8ET

Dear Emily,

**Re: Request for a Direction by the Secretary of State under Section 35 of Planning Act (PA) 2008 relating to AC4 Project, a transmission reinforcement project.**

Thank you for advising East Lindsey District Council of National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) intention to submit a request for a direction from the Secretary of State under Section 35 of the 2008 Planning Act (the Act) that the AC4 Project is of national significance and is to be treated as an infrastructure proposal for which development consent is required.

East Lindsey District Council has been involved in early discussions relating to your proposals for this project, we also continue to engage with other developers/promoters regarding their planned and consented projects including other grid reinforcement projects being promoted by NGET. There are also numerous energy infrastructure projects proposed to be connected to the National Grid in the locality which has implications for the UK Government and for us as local authority.

If the project is not considered under the NSIP regime, the development could be considered under multiple different consenting regimes which would make coordination and assessing the potential alone and in-combination impacts of the project difficult. Besides the practical difficulties that consideration under the Town & County Planning Act 1990 might entail, it would also follow previous section 35 decisions such as the Eastern Green Link 3 and 4, which concluded that they should be considered as of national significance and therefore a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, under the Act.

East Lindsey District Council is therefore supportive of the proposal being considered as of national significance and therefore a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, under the Act. We consider this regime will offer a transparent and well-defined consenting process offering the best framework to comprehensively assess matters of coordination and cumulative impacts with other planned energy projects.

East Lindsey District Council looks forward to assisting you with the DCO process where possible, to build on our existing knowledge base in relation to other energy projects which will enable us to respond comprehensively to the AC4 proposal.

Please take this letter as one of support that can be included in your request to the Secretary of State.

Yours faithfully,

*J. O'Sullivan*

Joe O'Sullivan  
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Manager