



Department for
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Our ref: 2265u

Your ref: YP14978 33KV Silsden - Ilkley Overhead Line
Rebuild

10 September 2025

Dear Mr Dent,

**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: YP14978 33KV SILSDEN - ILKLEY OVERHEAD LINE
REBUILD**

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:

- Replace 6 poles as part of a 33kV, 325 metre overhead line

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 Northern Powergrid ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of City of Bradford Metropolitan 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 to be installed above ground in a sensitive area.
3. The proposed development falls within the following designated sensitive areas:
 - South Pennine Moors SSSI
 - South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area
 - South Pennine Moors Phase 2 Special Area of Conservation
4. ADAS produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in June 2025 on behalf of the Applicant which provided details on the working method and risks to protected sites. The HRA concluded that the likelihood of significant effects arising from the proposal, both alone and in-combination could be ruled out.
5. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the HRA. In July 2025, they noted that they disagreed with the conclusion of the HRA (reference: 516436).
6. Through further engagement, NE contacted the Applicant via email to confirm, "Natural England agrees with the conclusions of Stage 1 of your HRA (dated June 2025) that there will be no likely significant effects upon South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors SPA... However, it has not been possible for Natural England to assess the impacts on the South Pennine Moors SSSI because no SSSI assessment has been provided. The access routes and location of the electricity poles on the SSSI are on acid grassland, which is a designated feature of the SSSI, so we advise that potential impacts on this feature are assessed further."

7. In September 2025, NE asserted that "... re-assessment of the consultation documents demonstrates that there is enough information available in the HRA to be able to ascertain that there will also be no lasting damage to the SSSI feature – acid grassland. We therefore confirm that the information provided rules out impacts to all relevant designated sites, and we have no further comments to make. We can also confirm that notice for consent is not required."
8. Having considered the HRA, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no likely significant effects on any National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the lack of connectivity between the works and the protected area.
9. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who noted no objection to the proposed development in June 2025. It was concluded that the proposal has potential to have an effect on landscape character and biodiversity but given the existing power line and information submitted, this isn't enough to trigger an EIA.

Yours sincerely,

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