Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Our ref: 2504u
Your ref: ENQ23277409 - Birch Hagg House, Low Mill, York, YO62 7XJ

12th October 2026

Dear Ms May,

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: ENQ23277409/U26111649 - Birch Hagg House, Low Mill, York, YO62 7XJ

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:

- Remove three existing poles and install a new off-line electricity supply comprising three new poles, approximately 100 metres of 240/415v overhead line and associated underground cabling.

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 Northen PowerGrid PLC ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of North York Moors National Park Authority ("the LPA"). In particular, in reaching her decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

a) The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
b) 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.
c) The proposed development is located within the Farndale SSSI and North York Moors National Park.
d) The Applicant consulted the LPA, which reviewed the plans and on 6 May 2026 raised no objections. The LPA did, however, recommend that the following matters to be taken into consideration during the works;
    - Public Footpath 502 Farndale West runs through the area marked for works and must always remain free from obstruction and open for use.
    - Poles 1, 2 and Tx are within Farndale SSSI, as is the hashed line to the south of Birch Hagg Bridge. Northern Powergrid/the landowner will need to assess the potential impact on the SSSI features and obtain assent/consent for the works from Natural England. Soil disturbance within this important meadow area must be minimised to avoid causing harm to the site and if any new poles are proposed then careful consideration must be given to any treatment options used to ensure no harm to SSSI features.
    - Please ensure that there is minimal disturbance to the strip of deciduous woodland alongside the river which is Priority Habitat. However, we recognise that there might be ash in the wooded strip. If there are only diseased ash we would not object to their removal or reduction to standing stems (for preference, to retain deadwood habitat).

- Please avoid any direct pollution/sedimentation from the work getting directly into any watercourse.

e) The Applicant should take the LPA's recommendations into consideration when carrying out the proposed works.

f) The Applicant consulted Natural England, who confirmed on 5 May 2026that they were satisfied that the proposed works would not have any significant impacts upon the SSSI and raised no objections to the proposed development.

g) An Ecological assessment was prepared by ADAS on 23 July 2026. The report identified that parts of the proposed works are located within Farndale SSSI and could result in temporary damage to a small area of Lowland Meadow and potentially broadleaved woodland. The assessment identified low or negligible risks to protected species, including nesting birds, reptiles, Brown Hare, Otter and Water Vole, subject to the recommended precautionary measures set out in the Ecological assessment (reference: WNT69105-2629(00) NPG) are implemented.

2. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing infrastructure and is not likely to have a significant effect on the National Landscape in which it is located.

Yours sincerely,

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