

KIRKLEES METROPOLITAN COUNCIL INVESTMENT & REGENERATION SERVICE

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

**Regulation 5 of The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales)
Regulations 2009**

DELEGATED DECISION FOR POWER RELATED DEVELOPMENT

Reference no. 2024/N /90159/W

Site Address	Springhead Stud, Scholes Moor Road, Hade Edge, Holmfirth, HD9 1RU
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Description	Overhead lines
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Recommending Officer	Teresa Harlow
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DECISION – NO OBJECTIONS

I hereby authorise that there are no objections to this application for the reasons set out in the officer's report and recommendation annexed below in respect of the above matter.

Julia Steadman

AUTHORISED OFFICER

Date: 15-Feb-2024

Preamble

Northern Powergrid have notified Kirklees Council, as Local Planning Authority, of their intention to undertake:

Electricity equipment reinforcements – Springhead Stud, Holmfirth

In order to improve the electricity supplies in the above area, Northern Powergrid propose to reinforce the network by rebuilding the existing low voltage network with Aerial Bunched Conductor (ABC) shown coloured red on the plan attached with the submission.

NP are also proposing to convert an existing pole to a double pole to house an upgraded transformer at the location. This is stated to address the current voltage problems that have been encountering in the area.

The accompanying plan shows the location of the extent of overhead line it is proposed to alter from multi strand to bunched conductor. This would be for approximately 100 metres. No other works are considered in this submission; the only issue the Local Planning Authority are required to comment upon is the work to the overhead lines themselves.

Under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, the Secretary of State's consent is generally required before electric lines may be installed above ground. Under the Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, certain minor works involving the installation of such lines are exempted from the requirement of consent under section 37. This allows, for example, the upgrade of an existing overhead line, subject to the Local Planning Authority determining that no 'significant adverse environmental impact' is likely.

The simplified procedure of this notification is where the applicant submits a notification to the relevant planning authority for proposed works. The relevant planning authority will screen notifications and respond to the applicant within six weeks advising if they have no objections or wish to invoke the full section 37 process for that proposal. Full section 37 applications for overhead lines are made to the Secretary of State for Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The section 37 regime enables views to be gathered on any particular overhead line proposal before the Secretary of State makes a decision to grant consent. Views are obtained by the applicant from the relevant planning authority on behalf of the local community, and from statutory bodies with responsibilities for environmental and heritage protection.

Assessment

The overhead line works would comprise of altering low voltage conductors (multi strands per pole) to bunched conductors (single strand) on a run of overhead line supported by existing poles generally running within the vicinity of PROW ref HOL/167/10 and crossing over Upper House Road running east

towards HOL/155/10. It is also proposed to alter an existing single pole close to Scholes Moor Road to a Double pole. This pole currently supports a transformer and the proposal is that the double pole also supports a transformer.

The proposed works would have no materially harmful impact on the visual amenities of the area. The existence of overhead lines supported by timber poles is a well-established feature that would not be out of place in the landscape. The bunched conductor would reduce the number of strands supported by the poles but would otherwise result in no material impact on the visual amenity of the area. The double pole would replace a single pole with transformer in a very similar location, again without demonstrable harm to the visual amenity of the area.

The wider context of the site area is that of an upland plateau of landscape of increasingly sporadic properties within the Green Belt.

The land on which the works would be undertaken would be sited is designated Green Belt and a 'Biodiversity Opportunity Zone' (Valley Slope and Mid-Altitudinal Grasslands) within the Kirklees Local Plan. It is within LCA3 of the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Development Plan: Hade Edge Upland Pastures.

Impacts:

Would the new bunched conductors/double pole have a 'significant adverse impact' on natural beauty?

No, it would have no perceptible impact. It would simply replace one form of conductor for another on an existing line of poles and house a double pole/transformer in place of an existing pole.

Would the new bunched conductors/double pole have a 'significant adverse impact' on the conservation of flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest?

No 'significant adverse impact', there are no trees protected by TPO that would be affected by the works.

The area is not identified in the biodiversity 'constraints' layer as having ground nesting birds or bats in the area.

The subject of this submission is the change to conductors/add a double pole in the corner of a field that is presently grazed. These works would not have a significant adverse impact on the conservation of flora or fauna. There are no geological or physiographical features of special interest that would be affected by the proposal.

Would the new bunched conductors/double pole have a 'significant adverse impact' on protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest?

There are no listed buildings within the vicinity of the works.

There are no objects of archaeological interest that would be affected by the proposed works.

It is concluded that no sites, buildings or objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest in the vicinity of the works would be significantly adversely affected by the proposed works.

Conclusion

No 'significant adverse environmental impact' is likely as a result of the proposed upgrade of the existing low voltage overhead line to 120 Aerial Bunched Conductor/the siting of a replacement double pole to house a replacement transformer.

Recommendation

It has been assessed that no 'significant adverse environmental impact' is likely as a result of the proposed upgrade of the existing low voltage overhead line to Aerial Bunched Conductor/the siting of a replacement double pole to house a replacement transformer.

It is recommended that Northern Powergrid be informed that Kirklees Council Local Planning Authority:

(i) does not object for the proposed development detailed above to be undertaken under the exemptions laid down in the Overhead Lines (Exemption)(England and Wales) Regulations 2009

(ii) does not wish the Secretary of State to consider the application using the full section 37 process under the Electricity Act 1989

Applicant's reference YP30361
Springhead Stud
Holmfirth

