

# 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. 2025/N /90008/W

Site Address land at, Meltham Road, Honley,  
Holmfirth, HD9 6RG

Description Overhead line works consisting of:  
Replacement of existing overhead span of wires between poles H0047/04-33,E3969 and E3962 with Aerial Bundled Conductor (ABC);  
Upgrade existing 50K VA Pole Mounted transformer at pole H0047/04-03 to 100k VA ;  
Replacement of two existing damaged stay wires at pole H0047/04-33 and disconnection and recover existing overhead line to the North and installation of additional stay wire at pole E3962.

Recommending Officer John Holmes

#### DECISION – No Objections

I hereby authorise 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.

Kirsty Nicholls

***AUTHORISED OFFICER***

**Date: 28-Feb-2025**

## **Application no: 2025//90008**

### **PROPOSAL**

Northern Powergrid have notified Kirklees Council, as Local Planning Authority, of their intention to undertake the following works at land at, Meltham Road, Honley, Holmfirth

:

- Replace existing overhead span of wires between poles H0047/04-33, E3969 and E3962 with Aerial Bundled Conductor (ABC)
- Upgrade existing 50K VA Pole Mounted transformer at pole H0047/04-03 to 100k VA
- Replace two existing damaged stay wires at pole H0047/04-33
- Disconnect and recover existing overhead line to the North
- Install additional stay wire at pole E3962

It is stated that the works are required to provide a supply of electricity to the new dwellings at the above location. The submitted detail states that the location of the pole and transformer has been chosen to cause minimal disruption and is considered the most acceptable.

The submitted details are sets out, in plans ENQ23208260, showing the location of the proposed installation.

### Preamble

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 revised overhead line would comprise one single strand conductor 'aerial bunched conductor' in place of the existing two-strand and four strand lines along this section. Other works include stay wires and replacement of infrastructure.

The proposed alteration would have no material impact on the visual amenities of the area. Although it is recognised that ABC conductors comprise a thicker strand of 'cable', this is offset by the neater appearance of a single strand as opposed to two/four strands of conductor.

The land on which the pole would be sited is designated Green Belt and within the Holme Valley Neighbourhood Plan Area (and associated landscape character area 5 – Netherthong Rural Fringe). It is also in the twite buffer zone.

Impacts:

Would the overhead line works have a 'significant adverse impact' on natural beauty?

The proposed alteration would have no significant impact on the visual amenities of the area and would be read in the context of the existing site and development already in place. The proposal is not considered to be significantly greater than that of the existing infrastructure.

Would the overhead line works have a 'significant adverse impact' on the conservation of flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest?

No, there are no trees protected by TPO that would be affected by this change. Minor works to trees along the route might be required to facilitate the works. However, going forward there would be less conflict with trees arising from one-strand cable than the existing 2-4 strands.

The area is within the 'twite' buffer where these ground nesting birds may be found. However, the overhead line would not impact on this habitat and the line itself runs alongside a road.

Would the overhead line works have a 'significant adverse impact' on protected sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest?

The nearest listed building is approximately 0.5km to the north east of the site, an Ancient Monument (Cairnfield in Slate Pits wood) is 0.6km to the west with intervening developments and landscape / features largely blocking views of the application site from these. Notwithstanding this given the nature of the proposal it is considered it would not have a significant impact in this regard which is greater than that of the existing development.

Recommendation

It has been assessed that no 'significant adverse environmental impact' is likely as a result of the following works:

- Replace existing overhead span of wires between poles H0047/04-33, E3969 and E3962 with Aerial Bundled Conductor (ABC)
- Upgrade existing 50K VA Pole Mounted transformer at pole H0047/04-03 to 100k VA
- Replace two existing damaged stay wires at pole H0047/04-33
- Disconnect and recover existing overhead line to the North
- Install additional stay wire at pole E3962

at land at, Meltham Road, Honley, Holmfirth

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.

**Recommendation by: John Holmes, Deputy Team Leader, Development Management**

**Authorised by: Kirsty Nicholls, Team Leader, Development Management**

