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 /91517/W**
Site Address	**The Old Milking Parlour, Hey Farm, Holt Head Road, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5TU**
Description	**Overhead lines application for replacement of existing open wire conductors in favour of aerial bunched conductor**
Recommending Officer	**Joshua Merriman**

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: 14-Jul-2025

Preamble

Northern Powergrid have notified Kirklees Council, as Local Planning Authority, of their intention to replace the existing open wire conductors in favour of an Aerial Bunched Conductor. The overhead line will run adjacent to Holt Head Road at The Old Milking Parlour, Hey Farm, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5TU. It is stated that the works are required in order to improve the security of electricity supplies and also resolve safety issues. The accompanying letter and information provide details, in plan form dated 2nd June 2025, of the location of the proposed installation. The accompanying letter describes the nature of the development (replacing existing open wire conductors in favour of an Aerial Bunched Conductor).

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 the installation of an Aerial Bunches Conductor, which would tie into the existing infrastructure which is in place already.

The land on which the overhead line would be sited is designated Green Belt and located in a bat alert layer and twite buffer.

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. Although it is acknowledged that there would be new overhead lines in place, it would be read in the context of the existing site and development already in place. There would be no increase in the bulk/massing of the structure and the proposal would not significantly impact in terms of visual amenity given the scale/nature of the development which is proposed.

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 Tree Preservation Order that would be affected by this change. The area is within the 'twite' buffer where these ground nesting birds may be found. However, the overhead line is not considered to impact on this habitat. Similarly, although the line is within a bat alert layer, the proposal is not considered to significantly impact upon bat roosts.

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

No, the application site is not considered to be close enough to protected sites, buildings, or objects of architectural, historic, or archaeological interest to have a significant adverse impact on the historic environment.

Recommendation

It has been assessed that no 'significant adverse environmental impact' is likely as a result of the upgrade of replacing the existing open wire conductors in favour of an Aerial Bunched Conductor, at The Old Milking Parlour, Hey Farm, Holt Head Road, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5TU.
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.