

**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. 2026/N /91022/W

**Site Address Thick Hollins Road, Meltham,
Holmfirth, HD9 3XD**

**Description Overhead lines application for
replacement of existing open wore
low-voltage conductors**

Recommending Officer Emma Thompson

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: 08-May-2026

Application no: 2026/91022

Preamble

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

Replace the existing open wire conductors in favour a Aerial Bunched Conductor.

AT

Thick Hollins Road, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 3XD

It is stated that the works are required 'to improve the security of electricity supplies and also resolve any safety issues Northern Powergrid'.

The accompanying letter and information provide details, in plan form, of the proposed works including the location they would be sited.

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.

Holme Valley Parish Council – no comments received.

Assessment

It is proposed to erect approximately 400 meters of Aerial bunched Conductor as shown coloured Red on the attached copy of drawing number Y012948. Aerial Bunched Conductor is deemed as the design successor of the existing open wire conductor. No other alterations are proposed to the line, poles or supporting structures.

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 within the Kirklees Local Plan. The sites runs adjacent to an area of protected trees and in the 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 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, the proposal seeks to replace the wire between the existing poles, which is not considered to be significantly intrusive works.

The area is within the twite buffer. The overhead line does not appear to impact on this habitat. Under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), wild birds are protected from being killed, injured or captured, while their nests and eggs are protected from being damaged, destroyed or taken. In addition, certain species are included in Schedule 1 of the Act and are protected against disturbance while nesting and when they have dependent young. Works undertaken in the breeding bird season March- September, should not proceed where there will be an impact on breeding birds.

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

There are no listed buildings within the vicinity of the site nor is it within a conservation area. 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 upgrade of the existing open wire conductors in favour of an Aerial Bunched Conductor at Thick Hollins Road, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 3XD

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)

(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 Emma Thompson, Deputy Team Leader, Development Management

Authorised by Kirsty Nicholls, Team Leader, Development Management