

# Appendix C Consultation

Chris Shields  
Senior Planning Officer  
Planning Development (Strategic)  
Durham County Council  
County Hall  
Durham  
DH1 5UL

By email only to: [chris.shields@durham.gov.uk](mailto:chris.shields@durham.gov.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Chris,

**Scotland England Green Link 1 (SEGL1) Torness to Hawthorn Pit offshore and onshore electricity transmission link**

**Overhead line and pylon works associated with the 400kV substation proposed as part of the SEGL1 English Onshore Scheme.**

**Consultation under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989**

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ('NGET') intends to submit an application pursuant to Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Section 37 Application) to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in respect of certain minor overhead line and pylon works which are required to facilitate the construction and operation of a proposed substation, (part of the Scotland England Green Link 1 - English Onshore Scheme), in County Durham.

We are required to write to you to request written feedback on the proposed overhead line and pylon works for which Section 37 consent is required, including the potential for those works to cause significant effects, and to request the provision of any additional information which your organisation considers would be necessary to accompany NGET's application to BEIS for Section 37 consent.

As part of the application process for Section 37 consent, NGET is consulting with the Durham County Council, Historic England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency to understand their views on the potential for any likely significant environmental effects. These views will then be submitted to the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to help inform their decision-making process on the application. This is known as the '**Form B**' process.

As part of the Form B process, screening for likely significant environmental effects is required with the relevant local planning authority, and this is known as the '**Annex B**' process. Please note that the statutory bodies are not party to the Annex B process. BEIS will not be required to consult with Durham County Council on the screening of the Section 37 Application proposals if Durham County Council provides its views to NGET before the screening request to BEIS is made.

**The wider proposals**

The overhead line and pylon works are required to facilitate the construction and operation of a proposed 400 kilovolt (kV) substation in connection with the proposed Scotland England Green Link 1 (SEGL1) English Onshore Scheme (EOS), a major reinforcement of the England and Scotland electricity transmission system, which will provide additional north-south transmission capacity across transmission network boundaries to accommodate increased north – south power transfers. The Project consists of a subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Torness in East Lothian and Hawthorn Pit in County Durham. It comprises approximately 192 km of subsea and underground HVDC

cables between new converter stations at each end of the electricity transmission link. These in turn are connected to the high voltage electricity transmission system via new alternating current (AC) cables to a new 400kV substation at Hawthorn Pit, County Durham and by new AC cables to the existing Branxton substation near Terness.

The EOS, which is the section of the scheme in England only, comprises approximately 10 km of underground HVDC cable from the landfall at Seaham, to a proposed converter station at Hawthorn Pit in County Durham. The converter station will be connected to a new 400 kV substation by approximately 1 km of HVAC cable. The new 400 kV substation will connect the project to the existing 275/ 400 kV Hawthorn Pit substation and the existing electricity transmission system.

Durham County Council, as the relevant Local Planning Authority, has determined that the EOS is not considered to be 'EIA development' under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Screening Opinion of 21 March 2021). As the EOS is not EIA development, The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017/EIA do not apply, and the production of an Environmental Statement was not required to support the outline planning application (ref DM/22/01663/OUT) submitted to Durham County Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022. However, a scoped and comprehensive Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR), which takes account of the requirements of the EIA Regulations, was voluntarily produced to support the outline planning application and covers all components of the EOS, regardless of consenting regime (including the proposed overhead line and pylon works).

As part of the Section 37 application process NGET has produced a Request for a Screening Opinion report (Aecom, September 2022) which sets out and assesses the potential for likely significant effects resulting from the proposed Section 37 works (see the section Environmental Impact Assessment below).

The location of the proposed works is shown in Figure 1-3 of the attached Request for EIA Screening Opinion report.

### **Proposed Works under Section 37**

NGET requires consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the following works (the overhead line works are shown on Figure 2):

1. The 4TF overhead line between Norton and Hawthorn Pit substations currently terminates at pylon 4TF080 where the downleads drop into Hawthorn Pit substation. When the new 400kV substation is built the 4TF will need to be re-aligned so that downleads drop into the new substation from a re-positioned pylon 4TF078. There will be a slightly different alignment of the span between pylon 4TF077 (to be retained unchanged) and the relocated pylon 4T078. The new 400kV substation will connect to the existing Hawthorn Pit substation via an underground AC cable connection.
2. Pylons 4TF079 and 4TF080 and their spans will no longer be required and will be removed, resulting in a net loss of two pylons. These works will not form part of the Section 37 Application as they are consented under the existing consent for the 4TF overhead line.

### **Proposed Section 37 consent application**

The Section 37 consent application to BEIS will be supported by the following documents as listed in the table below:

[please see over the page]

Application Document	Description
Site Location Plan	To identify the land in question.
Form B completed by Durham County Council, and the statutory bodies	To comply with the requirements of the Section 37 consents process.
Proposed layout of the existing overhead lines	To identify the proposed works pursuant to the Section 37 application.
Proposed layout of the realignment of the overhead lines	To identify the proposed works pursuant to the Section 37 application.
Environmental Appraisal	An environmental appraisal of the proposed works.
Constraints Plan	To outline any environmental constraints surrounding the proposals.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (to assist with the completion of Appendix A of Form B)**

NGET does not consider that the overhead line and pylon works have potential to cause likely significant effects for the reasons set out in Annex 1 (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening) of this letter. As such, NGET does not consider that the works comprise EIA development according to Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.

The Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) prepared for the EOS concluded that there would be no likely significant effects (with mitigation) for the proposed EOS either alone or in combination with the proposed overhead line works. A copy of the EAR is located on the Durham Planning Portal [here](#) for further baseline environmental information.

### **Request for Completion of Form B (Type II) and Appendix A (Screening)**

The procedures for determining Section 37 consent applications are set out in a Guidance Note published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change entitled '*The Statutory Consents Regime for Overhead Power Lines in England and Wales Under Section 37 Of the Electricity Act 1989*' (July 2014), a copy of which is attached for your information.

The Guidance Note provides an outline of the Section 37 consents process and in Section 4 provides guidance on the procedure for obtaining the views of the relevant Local Planning Authorities. However, we understand after speaking with BEIS, that despite being the most recent guidance, the note is yet to be updated to reflect current best practice and the new Form B (Type II). As such, there may be minor discrepancies between the guidance and the Form B. NGET are happy, therefore, to meet with your Authority on this matter to advise you on the process further and/or provide you with a contact at BEIS to speak with.

The Form B contains three parts:

1. Part One has been completed and signed by the Applicant (NGET).
2. Part Two and Three must be completed and signed by the relevant Local Planning Authority (Durham County Council).
3. Appendix A also must be completed in respect to the relevant Local Planning Authority's views under the Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.

Enclosed with this covering letter are the following documents in relation to Form B (Type II) and Appendix A:

- Form B (Type II) notifying you of the application and requiring your Authority's position and observations on the proposed development. **Part Two and Three to be completed and returned within two months of receipt.**
- Appendix A of Form B requiring the Local Planning Authority's views under the Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. **To be completed and returned within two months of receipt.**
- The Statutory Consents Regime for Overhead Power Lines in England and Wales Under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (July 2014) is for guidance purposes only.

## **Procedural Matters (Form B)**

The Form B (Type II) and Appendix A requires completion by your Authority within two months of the date of receipt and should, therefore, be **returned by the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**

- Part Two of the Form B ('Certificate'), which will confirm whether or not your Authority wishes to object to the proposed development and Part Three of Form B ('Information and Observations') provides an opportunity for your Authority to propose conditions to be imposed on the proposed overhead line works pursuant to the Section 37 application.
- If your Authority objects to the proposed development, the Secretary of State (BEIS) may hold a public inquiry (Paragraph 2, Schedule 8, Electricity Act 1989).
- Once you have completed the documents outlined above, please could your Authority send a signed and dated copy to [hugh.smith@nationalgrid.com](mailto:hugh.smith@nationalgrid.com). These will then be forwarded on to BEIS to enable the determination of the Section 37 application.
- When the application is made to BEIS, public notice of the application will be published in the newspapers that are available in the locality of the development. The public notice will state that copies of the full Section 37 consent application will be available for public inspection online and a hard copy will be available at the Council's offices.
- The documents should show a clear signature and an indication of the Authority on whose behalf the Form B Type II and Appendix A is signed. If provided in paper form the original signed copies should be sent to NGET, to be forwarded electronically to BEIS.

## **Proposed works that do not require s37 consent**

The following works do not require section 37 consent:

1. Removal of the pylons 4TF079 and 4TF080 and their adjoining conductor spans (wires). Removal of this equipment is consented under the original grant of consent for the 4TF overhead line.

## **Summary**

NGET would be most grateful if your Authority could please provide feedback on the proposed overhead line works via the completion of Form B Type II, and Appendix A. Please could you confirm receipt of this letter and if you need any further information or would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the requirements, please do not hesitate to let me know.

## **Host Authority check list**

1. Completion of Form B (Type II) Part 2, within two months (by 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022).

2. Completion of Form B (Type II) Part 3 within two months (by 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022).
3. Completion of Appendix A (EIA Screening) within two months (by 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022).  
Please note that these three items are all on the same form (attached)
4. Send a signed and dated copy of the forms directly to [hugh.smith@nationalgrid.com](mailto:hugh.smith@nationalgrid.com).

I hope that the above and the attached help to explain the Section 37 process and what is requested of your Authority, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your colleagues have any queries.

Yours sincerely,



**Hugh Smith**  
**Consents Officer**

Encs:

Scotland England Green Link 1 - English Onshore Scheme Section 37 application for overhead line works  
(Electricity Act 1989) *Request for EIA Screening Opinion* (Aecom, September 2022)

*Guidance Note: The Statutory Consents Regime For Overhead Power Lines In England And Wales Under Section 37 Of The Electricity Act 1989*, Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), July 2014

Form B and Appendix A (single document) (NB: Part 1 of Form B has already been completed and signed on behalf of NGET)

Contact: Chris Shields  
Direct Tel: 03000 261394  
email: chris.shields@durham.gov.uk  
Your ref:  
Our ref: SCR/22/00010



Hugh Smith  
Consents Officer  
4th Floor  
Crossgates House  
Crossgates  
Leeds  
LS15 8DU

22nd November 2022

Dear Mr Smith

### **Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017**

**Proposed** Screening Opinion request for new overhead line and pylon works associated with the 400kV substation proposed as part of the SEGL1 English Onshore Scheme.  
**At** Hawthorn Grid Site Murton DH6 2RX  
**For** National Grid Electricity Transmission Ltd

I refer to your recent request for a screening opinion for the above development.

The request has been considered in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England) Regulations 2017 ("the Regulations").

The consideration of whether a proposed development requires an Environmental Statement very much depends of whether it is classed as Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 development as defined by the Regulations. The proposed development is not a form of development falling within Schedule 1 and as such, it would not automatically require the submission of an Environmental Statement (ES).

With respect to Schedule 2 development, the LPA is duty bound to consider whether any part of the development falls within a 'sensitive area' as defined by the regulations or whether any applicable thresholds or criteria in the corresponding part of Column 2 of Schedule 2 are respectively exceeded or met in relation to that development. In this case, it is considered that the proposal would fall within part 10(b) of schedule 2 but would not exceed or meet the applicable thresholds or criteria.

Having regard to the above the LPA is of the view that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and is not EIA development.

You should be aware that the opinions hereby expressed relate only to the Council's requirement to adopt a screening opinion and are not necessarily reflective of the Council's views as to the planning merits of a scheme.

A copy of this Screening Opinion has been placed on the planning register.

### **Regeneration, Economy and Growth**

Durham County Council, Planning Development (Strategic), Room 4/123-128, County Hall,  
Durham DH1 5UL Main Telephone: 03000 262 830

Yours sincerely

Chris Shields  
Senior Planning Officer



Louise Tait  
Planning Advisor  
Sustainable Places North East  
Environment Agency  
Tyneside House  
Skinnerburn Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 7AR

By email only to: [louise.tait@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:louise.tait@environment-agency.gov.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Louise,

**Scotland England Green Link 1 (SEGL1) Torness to Hawthorn Pit offshore and onshore electricity transmission link**

**Overhead line and pylon works associated with the proposed 400kV substation proposed as part of the SEGL1 English Onshore Scheme**

**Consultation under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989**

**Request for written feedback and further information**

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ('NGET') intends to submit an application pursuant to Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Section 37 Application) to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in respect of certain minor overhead line and pylon works which are required to facilitate the construction and operation of a proposed substation, (part of the Scotland England Green Link 1 - English Onshore Scheme), in County Durham. The proposed works which require consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 are set out on page 2.

I therefore write to request written feedback on the overhead line works for which Section 37 consent is required, including the potential for those works to cause likely significant effects, and also to request the provision of any additional information that the Environment Agency considers would be necessary to accompany NGET's intended application to the Secretary of State for Section 37 consent.

As part of the application process for Section 37 consent, NGET is consulting with Durham County Council (as the relevant Local Planning Authority), Historic England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency to understand their views on the potential for any likely significant environmental effects. These views will then be submitted to BEIS to help inform their decision-making process on the application.

As part of the application process, screening for likely significant environmental effects is required with the relevant Local Planning Authority. Please note that the statutory bodies are not party to the screening process.

NGET has previously engaged with the Environment Agency as part of the pre-application process for the outline planning application to Durham County Council (ref: DM/22/01663/OUT) for "*the erection of a new 400 kilovolt electricity substation, a converter station, and the laying out of replacement public open space on land to the west and south of Jade Business Park, with all matters reserved*" which is currently being determined.

## The wider proposals

The overhead line and pylon works are required to facilitate the construction and operation of a proposed 400 kilovolt (kV) substation in connection with the proposed Scotland England Green Link 1 (SEGL1) English Onshore Scheme (EOS), a major reinforcement of the England and Scotland electricity transmission system, which will provide additional north-south transmission capacity across transmission network boundaries to accommodate increased north – south power transfers. The Project consists of a subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Torness in East Lothian and Hawthorn Pit in County Durham. It comprises approximately 192 km of subsea and underground HVDC cables between new converter stations at each end of the electricity transmission link. These in turn are connected to the high voltage electricity transmission system via new alternating current (AC) cables to a new 400kV substation at Hawthorn Pit, County Durham and by new AC cables to the existing Branxton substation near Torness.

The EOS, which is the section of the scheme in England only, comprises approximately 10 km of underground HVDC cable from the landfall at Seaham, to a proposed converter station at Hawthorn Pit in County Durham. The converter station will be connected to a new 400 kV substation by approximately 1 km of HVAC cable. The new 400 kV substation will connect the project to the existing 275/ 400 kV Hawthorn Pit substation and the existing electricity transmission system.

Durham County Council, as the relevant Local Planning Authority, has determined that the EOS is not considered to be 'EIA development' under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Screening Opinion of 21 March 2021). We enclose a copy of the EIA Screening Opinion for information purposes. As the EOS is not EIA development, The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 EIA do not apply, and the production of an Environmental Statement was not required to support the outline planning application. However, a scoped and comprehensive Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR), which takes account of the requirements of the EIA Regulations, was voluntarily produced to support the outline planning application and covers all components of the EOS, regardless of consenting regime (including the proposed overhead line and pylon works).

As part of the Section 37 application process NGET has produced a Request for a Screening Opinion report (Aecom, September 2022) which sets out and assesses the potential for likely significant effects resulting from the proposed Section 37 works (see the section Environmental Impact Assessment below).

## Proposed Works under Section 37

NGET requires consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the following works:

1. The 4TF overhead line between Norton and Hawthorn Pit substations currently terminates at pylon 4TF080 where the downloads drop into Hawthorn Pit substation. When the new 400kV substation is built the 4TF will need to be re-aligned so that downloads drop into the new substation from a re-positioned pylon 4TF078. There will be a slightly different alignment of the span between pylon 4TF077 (to be retained unchanged) and the relocated pylon 4T078. The new 400kV substation will connect to the existing Hawthorn Pit substation via an underground AC cable connection.

The erection of new pylon 4TF078 will be approximately 70m west of its existing position, which is just beyond the 60m threshold for relocating a pylon under The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. The new pylon 4TF078 will be approximately 46m high, replacing the existing pylon 4TF078 which is approximately 56m high.

2. Pylons 4TF079 and 4TF080 and their spans will no longer be required and will be removed, resulting in a net loss of two pylons. These works will not form part of the Section 37 Application as they are consented under the existing consent for the 4TF overhead line.

The proposed overhead line works are shown on Figure 1-3 of the Request for a Screening Opinion report, along with photomontages of the proposed works.

### Proposed Section 37 consent application

The Section 37 consent application to BEIS will be supported by the following documents as listed in the table below:

Application Document	Description
Site Location Plan	To identify the land in question.
Form B completed by Durham County Council, and the statutory bodies	To comply with the requirements of the Section 37 consents process.
Proposed layout of the existing overhead lines	To identify the proposed works pursuant to the Section 37 application.
Proposed layout of the realignment of the overhead lines	To identify the proposed works pursuant to the Section 37 application.
Environmental Appraisal	An environmental appraisal of the proposed works.
Constraints Plan	To outline any environmental constraints surrounding the proposals.

### Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the Section 37 application process NGET has produced a Request for a Screening Opinion report (Aecom, September 2022) which sets out and assesses the potential for likely significant effects resulting from the proposed Section 37 works.

NGET does not consider that the overhead line and pylon works have potential to cause likely significant effects for the reasons set out in the Request for a Screening Opinion report which we have submitted to Durham County Council, as the relevant authority, and which we attach for information. As such, NGET does not consider that the proposed Section 37 works comprise EIA development according to Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.

The Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) prepared for the EOS concluded that there would be no likely significant effects (with mitigation) for the proposed EOS either alone or in combination with the proposed overhead line works. A copy of the EAR is located on the Durham Planning Portal [here](#) for further baseline environmental information.

### Feedback on our proposals

All Section 37 applications are considered by the Secretary of State on a case-by-case basis and a decision is taken on the merits of each proposal.

NGET is required to seek the views of statutory bodies with responsibilities for environmental and heritage protection, such as the Environment Agency.

All feedback and information provided by the Environment Agency as part of the process will be included within the Section 37 application which NGET is required to submit to the Secretary of State and will ultimately be used to inform the decision-making process on the application.

Therefore, I would be most grateful if you could provide written feedback on the proposed overhead line works, including the potential for those works to cause likely significant effects, and provide any additional information which the Environment Agency considers would be necessary to accompany the application for Section 37 consent. There is a Discretionary Advisory Service (DAS) agreement in place for the SEGL1 project.

I would be grateful if you could respond as soon as possible and in any event by 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (six-week statutory timescale)

Please could you confirm receipt of this letter, and if you need any further information or would like to discuss any matters then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Hugh Smith**  
**Consents Officer**

Encs: Durham County Council EIA Screening Opinion (25<sup>th</sup> March 2021)

Scotland England Green Link 1 - English Onshore Scheme, Section 37 application for overhead line works (Electricity Act 1989) Request for EIA Screening Opinion report (Aecom, September 2022)

Mr Hugh Smith - Consents Officer  
National Grid  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Crossgates House  
Crossgates  
Leeds  
LS15 8DU

**Our ref:** NA/2022/116009/01-L01  
**Your ref:** Scotland England Green  
Link 1  
**Date:** 21 September 2022

Dear Mr Smith

**OVERHEAD LINE AND PYLON WORKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE  
PROPOSED 400KV SUBSTATION PROPOSED AS PART OF THE SEGL1  
ENGLISH ONSHORE SCHEME-CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 37 OF  
THE ELECTRICITY ACT 1989  
HAWTHORN GRID SITE MURTON DH6 2RX**

Thank you for your letter in respect of the Section 37 application for the above site.

We have reviewed the following submitted information:

- Letter from National Grid to the Environment Agency dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- AECOM (September 2022) Scotland England Green Link 1 – English Onshore Scheme, Section 37 application for overhead line works (Electricity Act 1989), Request for EIA Screening Opinion, National Grid Electricity Transmission

Please note, we are not a statutory consultee for Section 37 applications (Electricity Act 1989). However, we do have the following advice to offer.

### **Boreholes**

#### **Advice to applicant**

We note the proposal to undertake a phase II site investigation, as recommended in the Geo-environmental and Geotechnical Desk Study by AECOM dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022, includes boreholes to provide information on site conditions. We would advise that works are carried out following completion of the monitoring to appropriately decommission the boreholes in order to prevent the formation of preferential pathways allowing contaminant movement, which could pose a risk to groundwater quality.



**Piling**

**Advice to applicant**

We note that the proposal may include piling activities for the erection of new pylon 4TF078. We would advise an appropriate controlled waters risk assessment is undertaken, which takes into account the piling activities, and which demonstrates no unacceptable risk to controlled waters. We would also recommend that best practice guidance is reviewed to assess the risks associated with, and preventing pollution from, piling methods which are commonly used.

Yours sincerely

**Louise Tait**  
**Planning Advisor**

Direct dial 02084746523

Direct e-mail [louise.tait@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:louise.tait@environment-agency.gov.uk)



Historic England  
Bessie Surtees House  
41-44 Sandhill  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 3JF

By email only to: e-neast@historicengland.org.uk

14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Scotland England Green Link 1 (SEGL1) Torness to Hawthorn Pit (County Durham) offshore and onshore electricity transmission link**  
**Overhead line and pylon works associated with the proposed 400kV substation proposed as part of the SEGL1 English Onshore Scheme**  
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NGET does not consider that the overhead line and pylon works have potential to cause likely significant effects for the reasons set out in the Request for a Screening Opinion report which we have submitted to Durham County Council, as the relevant authority, and which we attach for information. As such, NGET does not consider that the proposed Section 37 works comprise EIA development according to Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.

The Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) prepared for the EOS concluded that there would be no likely significant effects (with mitigation) for the proposed EOS either alone or in combination with the proposed overhead line works. A copy of the EAR is located on the Durham Planning Portal [here](#) for further baseline environmental information.

### Feedback on our proposals

All Section 37 applications are considered by the Secretary of State on a case-by-case basis and a decision is taken on the merits of each proposal.

NGET is required to seek the views of statutory bodies with responsibilities for environmental and heritage protection, such as Historic England.

All feedback and information provided by Historic England as part of the process will be included within the Section 37 application which NGET is required to submit to the Secretary of State and will ultimately be used to inform the decision-making process on the application.

Therefore, I would be most grateful if you could provide written feedback on the proposed overhead line works, including the potential for those works to cause likely significant effects, and provide any additional information which Historic England considers would be necessary to accompany the application for Section 37 consent. There is a Discretionary Advisory Service (DAS) agreement in place for the SEGL1 project.

I would be grateful if you could respond as soon as possible and in any event by 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (six-week statutory timescale)

Please could you confirm receipt of this letter, and if you need any further information or would like to discuss any matters then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



**Hugh Smith**  
**Consents Officer**

Encs: Durham County Council EIA Screening Opinion (25<sup>th</sup> March 2021)

Scotland England Green Link 1 - English Onshore Scheme, Section 37 application for overhead line works (Electricity Act 1989) Request for EIA Screening Opinion report (Aecom, September 2022)



Historic England

Mr Hugh Smith  
Consents Officer  
New Infrastructure, Electricity Transmission  
Nationalgrid  
4th Floor Crossgates House  
Crossgates  
Leeds  
LS15 8DU

Our ref:  
Your ref:

Telephone 0191-403-1659

By email only

27 September 2022

Dear Mr Smith

**re: Consultation under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989: Overhead line and pylon works associated with the proposed 400kV substation proposed as part of the SEGL1 English Onshore Scheme**

Thank you for your letter of 14 September 2022 consulting Historic England regarding the above Section 37 Consultation.

We note the referral to the “Environmental Appraisal Report” on the Local Planning Authority’s (LPA) portal.

It is our understanding that the works proposed under Section 37 relate to the removal of one pylon and the construction of a replacement one; i.e.:

1. The realignment of the 4TF overhead line between Norton and Hawthorn Pit substations when the new 400kV substation is built . A pylon (4T078) will be re-located approximately 70m west of its existing position. The new pylon 4TF078 will be approximately 46m high, replacing the existing pylon 4TF078 which is approximately 56m high.

We consider that there appears to be minimal impact on the historic environment in relation to the proposed works. It is recommended, however, that an applicant seek confirmation from the relevant local authority Historic Environment staff for an informed local opinion of need.



Historic England, Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 3JF  
Telephone 0191 269 1255 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available.





Historic England

If further information becomes available which might result in a change to this, then we would like to be informed and provided with that information so that we can consider the matter further and respond to you as appropriate.

If you have any queries about the above or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*Lee McFarlane*

**Lee McFarlane**

Inspector of Ancient Monuments

[lee.mcfarlane@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:lee.mcfarlane@HistoricEngland.org.uk)



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Telephone 0191 269 1255 [HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

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Nick Lightfoot  
Lead Adviser - Sustainable Development and Planning  
Northumbria Area Team  
Natural England  
Lancaster House  
Hampshire Court  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 7YH

By email only to: Nick.Lightfoot@naturalengland.org.uk

14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Nick,

**Scotland England Green Link 1 (SEGL1) Torness to Hawthorn Pit (County Durham) offshore and onshore electricity transmission link**

**Overhead line and pylon works associated with the proposed 400kV substation proposed as part of the SEGL1 English Onshore Scheme**

**Consultation under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989**

**Request for written feedback and further information**

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ('NGET') intends to submit an application pursuant to Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (the Section 37 Application) to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in respect of certain minor overhead line and pylon works which are required to facilitate the construction and operation of a proposed substation, (part of the Scotland England Green Link 1 - English Onshore Scheme), in County Durham. The proposed works which require consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 are set out on page 2.

I therefore write to request written feedback on the overhead line works for which Section 37 consent is required, including the potential for those works to cause likely significant effects, and also to request the provision of any additional information that Natural England considers would be necessary to accompany NGET's intended application to the Secretary of State for Section 37 consent.

As part of the application process for Section 37 consent, NGET is consulting with Durham County Council (as the relevant Local Planning Authority), Historic England, Natural England, and the Environment Agency to understand their views on the potential for any likely significant environmental effects. These views will then be submitted to BEIS to help inform their decision-making process on the application.

As part of the application process, screening for likely significant environmental effects is required with the relevant Local Planning Authority. Please note that the statutory bodies are not party to the screening process.

NGET has previously engaged with Natural England as part of the pre-application process for the outline planning application to Durham County Council (ref: DM/22/01663/OUT) for *"the erection of a new 400 kilovolt electricity substation, a converter station, and the laying out of replacement public open space on land to the west and south of Jade Business Park, with all matters reserved"* which is currently being determined.

## The wider proposals

The overhead line and pylon works are required to facilitate the construction and operation of a proposed 400 kilovolt (kV) substation in connection with the proposed Scotland England Green Link 1 (SEGL1) English Onshore Scheme (EOS), a major reinforcement of the England and Scotland electricity transmission system, which will provide additional north-south transmission capacity across transmission network boundaries to accommodate increased north – south power transfers. The Project consists of a subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Torness in East Lothian and Hawthorn Pit in County Durham. It comprises approximately 192 km of subsea and underground HVDC cables between new converter stations at each end of the electricity transmission link. These in turn are connected to the high voltage electricity transmission system via new alternating current (AC) cables to a new 400kV substation at Hawthorn Pit, County Durham and by new AC cables to the existing Branxton substation near Torness.

The EOS, which is the section of the scheme in England only, comprises approximately 10 km of underground HVDC cable from the landfall at Seaham, to a proposed converter station at Hawthorn Pit in County Durham. The converter station will be connected to a new 400 kV substation by approximately 1 km of HVAC cable. The new 400 kV substation will connect the project to the existing 275/ 400 kV Hawthorn Pit substation and the existing electricity transmission system.

Durham County Council, as the relevant Local Planning Authority, has determined that the EOS is not considered to be 'EIA development' under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Screening Opinion of 21 March 2021). We enclose a copy of the EIA Screening Opinion for information purposes. As the EOS is not EIA development, The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 EIA do not apply, and the production of an Environmental Statement was not required to support the outline planning application. However, a scoped and comprehensive Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR), which takes account of the requirements of the EIA Regulations, was voluntarily produced to support the outline planning application and covers all components of the EOS, regardless of consenting regime (including the proposed overhead line and pylon works).

As part of the Section 37 application process NGET has produced a Request for a Screening Opinion report (Aecom, September 2022) which sets out and assesses the potential for likely significant effects resulting from the proposed Section 37 works (see the section Environmental Impact Assessment below).

## Proposed Works under Section 37

NGET requires consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the following works:

1. The 4TF overhead line between Norton and Hawthorn Pit substations currently terminates at pylon 4TF080 where the downloads drop into Hawthorn Pit substation. When the new 400kV substation is built the 4TF will need to be re-aligned so that downloads drop into the new substation from a re-positioned pylon 4TF078. There will be a slightly different alignment of the span between pylon 4TF077 (to be retained unchanged) and the relocated pylon 4T078. The new 400kV substation will connect to the existing Hawthorn Pit substation via an underground AC cable connection.

The erection of new pylon 4TF078 will be approximately 70m west of its existing position, which is just beyond the 60m threshold for relocating a pylon under The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. The new pylon 4TF078 will be approximately 46m high, replacing the existing pylon 4TF078 which is approximately 56m high.

2. Pylons 4TF079 and 4TF080 and their spans will no longer be required and will be removed, resulting in a net loss of two pylons. These works will not form part of the Section 37 Application as they are consented under the existing consent for the 4TF overhead line.

The proposed overhead line works are shown on Figure 1-3 of the Request for a Screening Opinion report, along with photomontages of the proposed works.

### Proposed Section 37 consent application

The Section 37 consent application to BEIS will be supported by the following documents as listed in the table below:

Application Document	Description
Site Location Plan	To identify the land in question.
Form B completed by Durham County Council, and the statutory bodies	To comply with the requirements of the Section 37 consents process.
Proposed layout of the existing overhead lines	To identify the proposed works pursuant to the Section 37 application.
Proposed layout of the realignment of the overhead lines	To identify the proposed works pursuant to the Section 37 application.
Environmental Appraisal	An environmental appraisal of the proposed works.
Constraints Plan	To outline any environmental constraints surrounding the proposals.

### Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the Section 37 application process NGET has produced a Request for a Screening Opinion report (Aecom, September 2022) which sets out and assesses the potential for likely significant effects resulting from the proposed Section 37 works.

NGET does not consider that the overhead line and pylon works have potential to cause likely significant effects for the reasons set out in the Request for a Screening Opinion report which we have submitted to Durham County Council, as the relevant authority, and which we attach for information. As such, NGET does not consider that the proposed Section 37 works comprise EIA development according to Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.

The Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) prepared for the EOS concluded that there would be no likely significant effects (with mitigation) for the proposed EOS either alone or in combination with the proposed overhead line works. A copy of the EAR is located on the Durham Planning Portal [here](#) for further baseline environmental information.

### Feedback on our proposals

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I would be grateful if you could respond as soon as possible and in any event by 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (six-week statutory timescale)

Please could you confirm receipt of this letter, and if you need any further information or would like to discuss any matters then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Hugh Smith**  
**Consents Officer**

Encs: Durham County Council EIA Screening Opinion (25<sup>th</sup> March 2021)

Scotland England Green Link 1 - English Onshore Scheme, Section 37 application for overhead line works (Electricity Act 1989) Request for EIA Screening Opinion report (Aecom, September 2022)



Date: 26 October 2022  
Our ref: 349986  
Your ref: Consultation under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989



Hugh Smith  
National Grid  
[hugh.smith@nationalgrid.com](mailto:hugh.smith@nationalgrid.com)

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Hugh,

**Planning consultation: Overhead line and pylon works associated with the 400kV substation proposed as part of SEGL1. Consultation under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (consent for overhead line works).  
Location: Hawthorn Pit, County Durham**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 14 September 2022 which was received by Natural England on 14 September 2022.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**Natural England's Advice**

Despite the proximity of a nationally designated site, namely Hesledon Moor West Site of Special Scientific Interest, Natural England does not consider that the proposed works will result in significant environmental effects on this site or any other matters within Natural England's remit.

Should the proposal change, please consult us again.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on 02080261194.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Lightfoot  
Northumbria Area Team

