

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Date: 26th October 2026

Dear Sir / Madam,

Subject: Chesterfield to High Marnham – Section 37 application for the ZDF overhead line works relating to a new 400kV Substation on land at High Marnham.

Please find enclosed an application made on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ('National Grid') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 ('Section 37 application') for overhead line 'Tie In' works related to the proposed new High Marnham 400kV Substation on land near High Marnham.

The application also applies for a direction pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ('Section 90 Direction') for deemed planning permission for these works and ancillary development including haul roads, laydown areas, crossing protection and maintenance access associated with the Section 37 works. Further details on the Section 90 Direction are provided within Appendix A.

The overhead line 'Tie In' works at High Marnham relate to four overhead lines, 4ZV, XE, ZDF and ZDA which all require Section 37 Consent. A separate Section 37 application has been submitted for each overhead line, with the same covering letter accompanying all four applications.

It has been agreed with DESNZ that all four Section 37 applications include the same local planning authority consultation form, Environmental Appraisal Report and associated documentation for each application.

This letter outlines the Section 37 application for the ZDF overhead line works that National Grid wish to submit to DESNZ.

Context

National Grid is proposing to develop a new 400kV substation on land near High Marnham ('the Site') as part of the Chesterfield to High Marnham reinforcement project ('the Project'), the purpose of which is to reinforce the electricity network, uprating the existing 275kV transmission in between Chesterfield and High Marnham to operate at 400kV. The Project forms part of the National Grid 'Great Grid Upgrade'. The Great Grid Upgrade will enable the electricity grid to carry more clean energy from renewable sources to communities, homes and businesses in every part of England and Wales, helping the UK to reach net zero. The proposals will also increase the security and resilience of the UK's electricity network.

The Project also comprises the overhead line 'Tie In' works at Chesterfield, comprising the installation of approximately 137m of temporary overhead line in one section to the south of the new Chesterfield 400kV substation. This requires Section 37 consent and is dealt with under a separate Section 37 application.

A separate Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) application for the proposed 400kV substation was approved by Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) on 23 June 2026 under planning application reference 25/01302/FUL and deemed not an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development under EIA Screening Opinion reference 25/01241/SCR.

Consent for relevant 'Tie In' works is sought from DESNZ on behalf of the SoS under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended). The remaining elements of the Scheme will be delivered under a combination of existing rights, exemptions, or permitted development.

Prior to the submission of this application to the SoS, Form B notices have been submitted to BDC and Nottingham County Council (NCC) to obtain their observations on the proposals. The completed forms and response to comments raised are enclosed within this submission.

Section 37 Applications

Description of Development

The overhead line 'Tie In' works at High Marnham that require Section 37 Consent are outlined below (noted pink on the accompanying drawing ref EDEU-WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000002 P04):

- Overhead line 4ZV is an overhead electric line between Chesterfield and High Marnham. Permanent turn-ins measuring 154m in line length require Section 37 consent.
- Overhead line XE is an overhead electric line between Thurstcroft / West Milton to High Marnham. Permanent turn-ins measuring 183m in line length require Section 37 consent.
- Overhead line ZDF is an overhead electric line to High Marnham. Permanent turn-ins measuring 181m in line length and one new pylon require Section 37 consent.
- Overhead line ZDA is an overhead electric line to High Marnham. It is a temporary diversion that is required for longer than six months, measuring 296m in line length and comprising one new angle tower. It will require Section 37 consent.

The total length of the overhead lines requiring Section 37 Consent at High Marnham is 814m.

Existing Rights, Exemptions and Permitted Development

As aforementioned, the remaining elements of the Scheme will be delivered under a combination of existing rights, exemptions, or permitted development. The following electric line works are considered exempt under Section 37(2) and therefore, deliverable as permitted development works under Class B(a) of Part 15 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as shown by red lines on the accompanying plan ref: WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000002 Rev P04):

- Overhead line 4ZV – 200m of overhead electric line and downloads measuring 74m and 73m (total of 347m). One new terminal pylon. One new line pylon.
- Overhead line ZDA – 107m of permanent overhead electric line (High Marnham to West Burton, Cottam to High Marnham) and permanent downloads measuring 52m and 56m. 291m of temporary overhead electric line for longer than six months (High Marnham to West Burton, Staythorpe to High Marnham) with downloads measuring 41m and 48m. 16m of temporary overhead electric line for longer than six months (High Marnham to Staythorpe). One new permanent terminal pylon. One new temporary terminal pylon.

- Overhead line ZDF – 163m of overhead electric line. Downleads measuring 62m and 62m. One new terminal pylon.
- Overhead line XE – 82m of overhead electric line. Downleads measuring 60m. One new terminal pylon.

On the basis that the Scheme falls under Regulation 3(1) of The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009, two exemptions are proposed because the relevant works will be in place for a period of less than six months. Accordingly, the following elements of the Scheme are considered exempt (noted in orange on the accompanying plan ref: WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000002 Rev P04):

- Overhead line 4ZV – to install 690m of temporary overhead line, plus one temporary mast for a period not exceeding six months. This does not require Section 37 consent.
- Overhead line ZDF – to install 586m of temporary overhead line, plus one temporary mast for a period not exceeding six months. This does not require Section 37 consent.

A total of 1,276m of temporary overhead lines are proposed.

In order to facilitate the Scheme, there is a need to remove some existing overhead line and pylons, as outlined below. This removal does not require Section 37 consent:

- Removal of approximately 9.3km of existing overhead line, in five sections, predominantly to the north, east, south and south west of the existing High Marnham Substation.
- Removal of 24 pylons (4ZV1AT to 4ZV3T, 4ZV1BT to 4ZV3T, XE1T to XE4T, ZDA252AT to ZDA252BT, ZDA248AT, ZDA248BT, ZDA249T to ZDA253T, ZDF2T to ZDF4T and ZDA248FT to ZDA248BT).

Submission Documents

This Section 37 application is supported by the following documents:

Document / Plan Title	Document / Plan Reference
Completed Application Form	-
Covering Letter	-
Completed Form B Response from BDC	-
Completed Annex B Response from BDC	-
Screening Opinion from BDC	-
Completed Form B Response from NCC	-
Completed Annex B Response from NCC	-
EIA Screening Report	-
Environmental Assessment Report	-
Environmental Assessment Report Appendices	
Appendix A: High Marnham New Overhead Lines Glossary and Abbreviations	-
Appendix B: Methodology	-

Appendix C: High Marnham Overhead Works Plans, including:	-
Application Location Plan	WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000004 Rev P02
Overhead Works Plan (Sheet 1 and 2)	WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000002 Rev P04
Phased Overhead Works Plan (Sheet 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)	WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000001 Rev P04
Construction, Design and Management (CDM) Plan	WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000003 Rev P04
Appendix D: High Marnham New Overhead Line Drawings	-
Appendix E: Type 1 Photographic Survey	-
Appendix F: Agricultural Land Classification Report	-
Appendix G: High Marnham New Overhead Lines Outline Soil Management Plan	-
Appendix H: Noise Impact Assessment	-
Appendix I: High Marnham Overhead Lines Construction Dust Assessment and Methodology	-
Appendix J: Arboricultural Survey Report	-
Appendix K: Excerpts from Appendix F of the new 400kV High Marnham Substation Environmental Appraisal Report	-
Appendix L: Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)	-

EIA Screening

The Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 apply to applications for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act. As the overhead line works would follow this consenting route, National Grid has taken account of the EIA Regulations and sought a Request for a Screening Opinion from BDC and NCC on 19 June 2026.

BDC provided their Screening Opinion on 12 August. NCC provided their Screening Opinion on 21 August 2026 (dated 19 August 2026), confirming that the proposed overhead line works do not constitute EIA development. BDC provided a Screening Opinion, although not a requirement, the Screening Opinion is submitted with the Section 37 application.

A request for an EIA Screening Opinion has been submitted to DESNZ alongside the Section 37 application.

Consultation

Prior to making this Section 37 application, consultation has been undertaken with BDC and NCC, Statutory Bodies and landowners, as part of the Form B process, while informal discussions around the application process have been undertaken with DESNZ as the determining authority.

Consultation with the Local Planning Authority

The Form B consultation is a mechanism by which the relevant local planning authorities can make a recommendation on Section 37 applications to the SoS. A Form B submission was prepared and issued to both BDC and NCC on 19 June 2026 which comprised a suite of documents provided to enable the Councils to consider the proposed development in accordance with the Section 37 consenting process.

The submitted information set out the background to the Scheme, identified those elements requiring Section 37 consent, and provided supporting environmental and technical information to assist the Council's review. The submission included:

- A Covering Letter, outlining the different elements of the Scheme and its background as a feature of the wider Project.
- An EIA Screening Report which provided a screening assessment for all 'Tie In' works, including temporary lines and removals.
- Form B: BDC and NCC were requested to assess whether the pink lines (as shown on the accompanying drawing: EDEU-WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000002 Rev P03) require consent under Section 37; and respond to Form B as to whether the Council's wish to object. Appendix A of Form B is where the Councils were asked to consider whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is needed.
- Annex B: The Council's were also asked to give their opinion on lines (shown as orange on the accompanying drawing EDEU-WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000002 Rev P03, which are considered as exempt from Section 37 under The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (Annex B).
- Proposed Scheme Drawings:
 - Location Plan: SP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000004 Rev P02
 - Overhead Works Plan: WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000002 Rev P03
 - Phased Overhead Line Works Plan: WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000001 Rev P03
 - CDM Plans: WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000003 Rev P03

BDC completed their Form B response on 12 August 2026. Their response indicated that they had no objection to the proposed Section 37 works and that an EIA was not required, however requested information to be submitted as part of the Section 37 application. The response from BDC is considered within the EAR. NCC provided their Form B response on 21 June 2026 (dated 19 June 2026). Their response indicated that they had no objection to the proposed Section 37 works and did not propose any conditions.

BDC have confirmed that the two aforementioned lines fall within the scope of the Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (as amended). BDC formally approved this by signing Annex B on 12 August 2026. NCC formally approved this by signing and issuing their Annex B on 23 September 2026.

Copies of the completed Form B and Annex B responses are submitted as part of our Section 37 application. A summary of their comments and National Grid's response is provided within Appendix B, this includes a proposed resolution via conditions, if required.

Consultation with Statutory Bodies

As part of the Section 37 consenting process, National Grid submitted the EIA Screening Report, Form B, Annex B and relevant drawings to the statutory consultees. Comments on the Scheme were sought from the following statutory bodies on 23 June 2026:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Historic England

The information provided to the statutory bodies at this time included a Cover Letter that gave an overview of the Form B process, a breakdown of the elements of the Scheme that would be consented under Section 37, and those that would be via Permitted Development and Exemptions. Details on what overhead lines and towers that would require removal were also included.

Responses were received from all statutory consultees. No significant objections were raised in relation to the proposed Section 37 works, and no likely significant environmental effects were identified.

A summary of the statutory body consultation responses and National Grid's response is provided within Appendix B, which includes a proposed resolution via conditions, if required.

Conditions

As aforementioned, the application applies for a Section 90 Direction for deemed planning permission for these works and ancillary development including haul roads, laydown areas, crossing protection and maintenance access associated with the Section 37 works, further details is within Appendix A. Appendix B of this covering letter provides National Grid's response to statutory consultees and suggested conditions. In addition to this, the EAR provides proposed planning conditions, where relevant.

Application Publicity

Statutory Notices, in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations (Publication of Notices of Application for Consent Under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989) will appear in the London Gazette for two successive weeks from 29 October 2026 and 5 November 2026 and the Newark Advertiser for two successive weeks from 5 November 2026 and 12 November 2026.

In accordance with sub-clause (2), the notices will describe, by reference to a map, the land over which the line is proposed to pass.

The Notices confirm that the map is available for inspection by members of the public in the following ways:

- Online at [Our proposals in High Marnham | National Grid](#)
- Hard copies of the map are available for inspection during opening hours at:
 - Bassetlaw District Council, Queen's Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S80 2AH
- Copies can be obtained by calling 0800 073 1047.
- Copies can be obtained by emailing a request to: Brinsworth-HighMarnham@nationalgrid.com

Tolerances

Pylons may be moved subject to limits where local constraints are identified prior to or during construction.

- Typical vertical limits of deviation: pylon height can be increased up to a maximum of 6m to suit the ground profile. No minimum for decreasing the pylon height.
- Typical lateral limits of deviation: 100m lateral limit of deviation; 50m conductor swing dependent on span length and variable lateral movement of pylon centre. Variable longitudinal movement of pylon centre constrained by vertical and lateral limits of deviation.

Application Fees

The application fee for the proposed overhead line works is as follows:

- 1 x overhead line with a nominal capacity exceeding 132kV: £902.50.
- 1 x Request for a formal screening opinion: £60.

Total: £962.50

It is considered that this submission to the SoS has been appropriately supplemented by technical appraisals in response to comments arising from the Form B process. Should the SoS consider it necessary, we respectfully suggest that she consults the relevant statutory bodies and stakeholders regarding their comments. Should you require any other information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Emily Johnson

Principal Consultant – Town Planning

Email: emily.johnson@arcadis.com

Appendix A: Section 90 Direction

Section 90 Direction

The application applies for a direction pursuant to Section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ('Section 90 Direction') for deemed planning permission for these works and ancillary development including haul roads, laydown areas, crossing protection and maintenance access associated with the Section 37 works.

The scope of deemed approval comprises temporary and minor permanent works directly associated with the Section 37 Overhead Line Works. These are detailed in the accompanying CDM Plan (reference: WSP-OH72-HIGM4-PLN-OC-000003 Rev P04) and includes:

- Accesses, including trackway matting and haul road access
- Temporary compound locations and temporary construction rights
- 50m width working area along overhead line alignment with tower laydown areas (70m x 70m) and "Bowtie" machine pulling positions at tension tower locations
- Crossing protections (safety systems (e.g. net guards and support structures) installed at overhead line crossings to catch or contain falling cables and protect traffic, workers, and the public)
- Crossing protections along the haul road

Proposed Planning Conditions

- Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Soil Management Plan

Appendix B: National Grid's Response to Consultation Responses

Consultee	Summary of Main issues Raised	National Grid Response, including Proposed Resolution via Conditions
Natural England	We have reviewed the location plan submitted to us on 23 June 2026 and Natural England can confirm that the development is not close to or within a Habitats Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or protected landscape and we have no comments to make on this consultation.	This response is noted. An Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) has been prepared and forms part of the submissions. Ecology baseline conditions and the environmental appraisal of the potential Ecology impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Scheme are provided within Section 3.2 of the EAR.
Historic England	<p>In respect of the proposed OHL works subject to the present consultation under Section 37 of the Electricity Act we have not identified a likely significant environmental effect in respect of the historic environment.</p> <p>Our only comment is to note that in the EIA screening report it states, 'Whilst the construction and demolition of the former High Marnham Power Station is considered to have destroyed any archaeological remains in its vicinity, areas which have remained in use as arable land are considered to have a higher potential for preserved below ground remains.' We would caution that whilst the construction of the former High Marnham Power Station will have caused significant ground disturbance there are likely to be some areas within the site where either ground disturbance was very limited during construction or features of considerable depth have survived some degree of truncation.</p> <p>See for instance the 2005 work at Willington former power station [https://eprints.oxfordarchaeology.com/2571/].</p>	The Section 37 works and land required to construct the Scheme avoids the former High Marnham Power Station. The EAR appraises the impact to the historic environment within Section 3.4. All control measures would be detailed within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). It is envisaged that the CEMP will be subject to condition.
Environment Agency	The Environment Agency do not comment upon requests for EIA Screening Opinions as we do not decide on the requirement for an EIA. However, if it is determined that an EIA is required then please consult us on the Scoping Opinion for this application once submitted.	This response is noted. The EAR details the Water Resources and Flood Risk baseline conditions and the environmental appraisal of the potential Water Resources and Flood Risk impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Scheme within Section 3.6.

BDC	<p>EIA not required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nottinghamshire CC Highways requested a Section 37 application be supported by a Construction Traffic Management Plan. Environmental Health raised concerns regarding the potential for construction dust, noise, historic land contamination and future contamination risks, and advised that these matters should be fully assessed and appropriate mitigation considered. Nottinghamshire CC Planning Policy raised no objections in relation to minerals or waste planning matters, but recommended consideration of waste management, archaeological assessment and mitigation as part of any future submission. Nottinghamshire CC Archaeology advised that the Site lies within an area of archaeological potential and recommended that archaeological investigations, including geophysical survey and field evaluation, be undertaken to inform any future application and mitigation strategy. The Site lies within consultation zones associated with a nearby major hazard establishment and HSE recommended that appropriate risk considerations are taken into account. Natural England recommended that sufficient ecological, landscape and agricultural land information be provided to support the assessment of environmental effects. 	<p>The response for a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is noted. It is proposed that the CTMP will be subject to condition and we will liaise with the Council to discuss the content of the proposed condition.</p> <p>The EAR has assessed Environmental Health, in relation to construction dust (Section 3.5), noise (Section 3.8) and land contamination (Section 3.7). Mitigation would be detailed within the CEMP. It is envisaged that the CEMP will be subject to condition.</p> <p>All control measures relating to waste management would be detailed within a CEMP. It is envisaged that the CEMP will be subject to condition.</p> <p>A geophysical survey and field evaluation is being undertaken and the results of the surveys will inform the CEMP. To be subject to condition.</p> <p>The Site lies within the HSE land-use planning consultation zone, BDC's EIA Screening Matrix confirms that whilst the Scheme lies within the HSE consultation zone, the likelihood of a major accident is considered low and subject to separate regularly controls and risk management regimes. We recommend that DESNZ consult with HSE through the Section 37 submission.</p> <p>The EAR has addressed the comments from Natural England in relation to ecology (Section 3.2), landscape and visual (Section 3.3) and agriculture and soils (Section 3.10).</p>
NCC	No issues to raise.	n/a