

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

Date: 26th October 2026

Dear Sir / Madam,

Subject: Brinsworth to Chesterfield – Section 37 application for the overhead line works relating to a new 400kV Substation on land at Calow Lane, Chesterfield.

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 Chesterfield 400kV Substation on land near Chesterfield.

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 and maintenance access associated with the Section 37 works. Further details on Section 90 Direction are provided within Appendix A.

This letter outlines the Section 37 application that National Grid wish to submit to DESNZ.

Context

National Grid is proposing to develop a new 400kV substation on land near Chesterfield ('the Site') forming 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 High Marnham, comprising the installation of approximately 518m of permanent overhead line in three sections, and one temporary overhead line measuring approximately 296m. Collectively, 814m of overhead line at High Marnham is required to facilitate new High Marnham 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 North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) on 14 August 2026 under planning application reference 25/01062/MFL, and deemed not an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development under EIA Screening Opinion Ref. 25/00911/EIA on 18 November 2025.

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

Prior to the submission of this Section 37 application to the SoS, a Form B notice has been submitted to NEDDC and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to obtain their observations on the proposals. The completed forms and response to comments raised are enclosed within this submission.

Section 37 Application

Description of Development

The overhead line 'Tie In' works near Chesterfield that requires Section 37 Consent is outlined below (noted pink on the accompanying drawing ref EDEU-WSP-OH71-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000002 P04):

- Overhead line 4ZV – 137m of temporary overhead electric line between Chesterfield and High Marnham. The proposed overhead line will be required for more than 12 months.

The total length of the overhead lines requiring Section 37 Consent at Chesterfield is 137m.

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: EDEU-WSP-H71-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000002 P04):

- Overhead line 4ZV – to install 431m of permanent overhead electric line (including downloads) between Chesterfield and Long Lane and the installation of new tower 4ZV122.
- Overhead line 4ZV – to install 50m of temporary overhead electric line downloads at tower 4ZV124.
- Overhead line 4ZV – to install 257m of new permanent overhead electric line (including downloads) between Chesterfield and High Marnham.
- Overhead line 4ZV – to install 523m of temporary overhead electric line (including downloads) and one temporary terminal tower (ref 4ZV124T) required for longer than 12 months and one permanent terminal tower (ref: 4WC1).

A total of 1,461m 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 1,067m of existing overhead line, in two sections, predominantly to the north, east, south and south west of the existing Chesterfield Substation and removal of three pylons.

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 NEDDC	-
Completed Form B Response from DCC	-
DCC letter to DESNZ	-
Approved Environmental Appraisal Report (25/01062/MFL) and appendices	-
Application Location Plan	EDEU-WSP-OH72-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000001 P01
Overhead Works Plan (Sheet 1 and 2)	EDEU-WSP-H71-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000002 P04
Phased Overhead Works Plan (Sheet 1, 2, 3 and 4)	EDEU-WSP-H71-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000001 P03
Construction, Design and Management (CDM) Plan	EDEU-WSP-H71-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000003 P02

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 NEDDC and DCC on 19 June 2026.

NEDDC and DCC provided their respective Screening Opinions on 12 August 2026 and 13 August 2026 confirming that the proposed overhead line works do not constitute EIA development. A request for an EIA Screening Opinion has been submitted to DESNZ alongside the Section 37 application.

Environment

An Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR), in support of the TCPA application for the proposed new 400kV substation, was submitted to NEDDC. This EAR set out the construction phase and operational phase environmental impacts associated with the proposed new 400kV substation, including overhead line works, and the mitigation and control measures required to manage these impacts. The EAR also considered cumulative impacts. The findings of the EAR and control measures therein, are also relevant to the Scheme.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan, and constituent management plans, such as a Construction Traffic Management Plan, will be implemented to manage construction phase environmental impacts through the TCPA application. A combined landscape and biodiversity net gain design will also be implemented as part of the proposed new 400kV substation.

The EAR demonstrated that, with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures, the residual impacts of development would not be significant, with aspects of a temporary nature being confined to the

construction phase. Any long-term visual and environmental impacts are to be minimised through incorporating measures to reduce visual impact.

The approved EAR submitted in support of the TCPA application (under planning application reference 25/01062/MFL) has been submitted with this Section 37 application for information only.

Consultation

Prior to making this Section 37 application, consultation has been undertaken with NEDDC, DDC, 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 Authorities

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 NEDDC and DCC on 12 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 drawings 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: NEDDC and DCC were requested to assess whether the pink line (as shown on accompanying drawing: EDEU-WSP-H71-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000002 P03) requires 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 EIA is needed.
- Proposed Scheme Drawings:
 - Location Plan: EDEU-WSP-OH72-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000001 P01
 - Overhead Works Plan: EDEU-WSP-H71-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000002 P03
 - Phased Overhead Works Plan: EDEU-WSP-H71-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000001 P03
 - CDM Plans: EDEU-WSP-H71-CHTE4-PLN-OC-000003 P02

NEDDC 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. They did not propose any conditions.

DCC completed their Form B response on 13 August 2026, this was received by email on 3 September 2026, their response raised an objection to the proposed Section 37 works. Their comments stated that on its own, the realignment would have a negligible impact upon the area, but it cannot be implemented without the tie-in works within the wider site, which include the erection of a new pylon(s) required to facilitate the realignment, tie-in, and substation works. It is for this reason that the realignment outside the land controlled by National Grid cannot reasonably be considered in isolation. The Council raised an objection based on the cumulative impacts of the Section 37 proposal, tie-in works and wider substation upgrade in combination.

The response also detailed conditions relating to a Construction Traffic Management Plan and landscape treatment.

Ongoing engagement between DCC and National Grid sought to address the matters raised in its objection. Following this engagement, DCC confirmed by email on 24 September 2026 that the objection had been withdrawn, stating:

“Given that the S37 consultation relates to only a minor realignment of an existing line, for a temporary basis during the upgrade of the Cock Alley Substation, Members accept that an objection would be unlikely to be upheld and therefore wish to withdraw the objection.”

DCC submitted a formal letter of withdrawal to DESNZ on 30 September 2026. The letter confirmed that the proposed conditions set out in paragraph 4 of Part 3 to the objection were no longer required, as the issues which those proposed conditions sought to regulate are no longer of a concern.

A copy of the Form B responses are submitted as part of our Section 37 application, along with DCC's formal letter withdrawing their objection. A summary of their comments and National Grid's response is provided within Appendix A, 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 Form B and relevant drawings to the statutory consultees. Comments on the Scheme were sought from the following statutory bodies on 19 June 2026:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- National Highways
- 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. Details on what overhead lines and towers that would require removal were also included.

Responses were received from all statutory consultees, apart from National Highways. 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.

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 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, no conditions have been recommended.

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 Derbyshire Times 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 near Chesterfield | National Grid](#)
- Hard copies of the map are available for inspection during opening hours at:
 - North East Derbyshire District Council, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S42 6NG
- 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 P02) and includes:

- Accesses, including trackway matting and haul road access
- 50m width working area along overhead line alignment with tower laydown areas (70m x 70m) and "Bowtie" machine pulling positions at tension tower locations

Appendix B: National Grid's Response to Consultation Responses

Consultee	Summary of Main issues Raised	National Grid Response
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.
Historic England	Historic England provides advice when our engagement can add most value. In this case we are not offering advice	This response is noted.
Environment Agency	The Environment Agency does offer a chargeable discretionary advice service. Otherwise, we do not comment on pre-application/pre-submission consultations. The Environment Agency are no longer a statutory consultee for screening opinions and would be formally consulted through the LPA if a scoping opinion is required.	This response is noted.
NEDDC	Not EIA Development. Visual receptors that will experience views of the site during construction and operational phases will need to be considered.	This response is noted. Given the scale and nature of the proposal (i.e. temporary works) in conjunction with the environmental sensitivity of the site, it is considered that the Scheme is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental effects.
DCC	Ongoing engagement between DCC and National Grid, considered and addressed concerns raised in the objection. Withdrawn objection. No conditions proposed.	This response is noted. Further details are within the main body of the covering letter.
National Highways	n/a	Emails were sent to National Highways on 23 June 2026, 24 July 2026 and 7 August 2026. No response has been received to date.

Given the nature and scale of the proposed works, it is considered unlikely that there will be an impact on the strategic road network.
