



Application: 20240063

ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 – OVERHEAD LINES (EXEMPTION) REGULATIONS 1990

NO OBJECTION TO OVERHEAD LINES

To: **Kate McGregor**
1-3 Strand
London
WC2N 5EH

TAKE NOTICE that the **GRAVESHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**, the Local Planning Authority under the Overhead Lines (Exemption) Regulations 2009 and Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 has **NO OBJECTION** for the proposal at land situate

at **Eastcourt Marshes Electricity Substation**
Mark Lane
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 2HR

and being **Electricity Act 1989 - Overhead Lines- Consultation - Works at Gravesend: one existing terminal tower will be removed, and one new tower will be erected to facilitate a realignment. The new span will be 325m long, replacing an existing span of 400m and provide a net loss of approximately 78m of overhead line. To facilitate this replacement tunnel project, new cables in the replacement tunnel must be connected to the existing high voltage 400kV overhead line network and a planning application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 has been submitted alongside this application.**

Referred to in your notice dated 8 December 2023

1. The site is an existing National Grid compound with Sealing End Compound, Head House, Terminal Tower, Tension Tower and Overhead Power Lines. The new pylon and Overhead Line works are on land to the south of the existing apparatus and is on land that is not owned by the National Grid.

Whilst the proposal would be for the installation of one new pylon and new overhead lines, as the existing pylon in the Sealing End Compound would be removed and the existing tension tower pylon would be retained there would be no actual additional increase in pylons on the site. In respect of the overhead lines they would be of less length than the existing overhead lines as the existing length of 403m would be removed and the new overhead lines would be 325m which is a reduction in length of 78m. The new pylon would be located 94.6m south-east of the existing pylon and the widest distance between the existing and new overhead lines would be 52.8m. It is therefore considered that there would be a neutral impact in respect of Green Belt and visual/landscape matters.

The site is located in a Local Wildlife Site (Canal and Grazing Marsh, Higham) and in close proximity to the Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. KCC Biodiversity have advised further information is required regarding reptiles, biodiversity net gain and water voles; Buglife also provide detailed comments. The applicant has advised that they will be providing an updated technical note to address KCC Biodiversity's comments and will be providing a letter to explain how they will be addressing the points of other consultees which would include Buglife. At this stage the Local Planning Authority cannot therefore advise that the proposal is acceptable in respect of biodiversity but the applicant is working on addressing this matter.

The site is in Flood Zone 3 and there are objections to the proposal from the Environment Agency (EA). There is also a holding objection from KCC Flood and Water Management. The applicant has advised that KCC Flood and Water Management have removed their holding objection in an e-mail exchange to them but they are working on matters that KCC Flood & Water Management would require by condition, if permission were to be forthcoming. The EA object to the proposal unless the Flood Risk matters highlighted in their response can be adequately addressed; the applicant advises that they have completed the extra work required and will first consult with the EA if this resolves their comments before submitting to the Local Planning Authority. At this stage the Local Planning Authority cannot therefore advise that the proposal is acceptable in respect of biodiversity and flood risk matters but the applicant is working on addressing these matters.

It appears all other matters including relating to heritage and highways could be dealt with by planning condition, should permission be forthcoming.

It should be noted that the comments made on this application are without prejudice to the subsequent determination of planning application including EIA development (ref. 20231313) which is under consideration by Gravesham Borough Council.

Dated this 14th day of June 2024

Address; Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 1AU

Shazad Ghani
MPhil, MA, BA (Hons)
Head of Planning
Planning Service