



DELEGATED DECISION REPORT

Application Reference Number	18NP0039EL
Description / Site Address	Relocation of wood pole no. 5 and removal of eight wood poles at Roman Army Museum, Greenhead, Northumberland, CA8 7JB
Expiry date of publicity / consultations	9 May 2018
Last date for decision	25 May 2018

Details of Proposal

Northumberland National Park Authority has been consulted under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Overhead lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 for:

- Relocation of a wood pole No. 5 with a new wood 'H' pole and stay wires;
- Replacement of existing wood pole No. 39 with a new wood 'H' Pole and stay wires
- Removal of eight wood poles

The proposed works are on land near to the Roman Army Museum, Greenhead and to the south and east of Walltown Lodge.

Planning Policy & Guidance

National Policies

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)

National Planning Practice Guidance

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015

Electricity Act 1989

Overhead Lines (Exemption)(England and Wales) Regulations 2009

Local Policies

Northumberland National Park Authority Core Strategy and Development Policies Document (Core Strategy) (2009)

Policy 3	<i>General Development Principles</i>
Policy 17	<i>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</i>
Policy 18	<i>Cultural Heritage</i>
Policy 20	<i>Landscape Quality and Character</i>



Supplementary Planning Guidance

NNPA Building Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (Design Guide SPD)
NNPA Landscape Supplementary Planning Document (Landscape SPD)

Relevant Planning History

No relevant planning history

Consultation/Representations

Historic England: *Response 19th April 2018: Further information required* - the proposed works have been the subject of extensive discussions with both Northern Powergrid and the National Park Authority. Historic England very much supports the principle of the development. The proposed pole works appear as discussed and any harm can be controlled through conditions on any SMC granted.

However, the only area of concern is that the application doesn't detail the route of the underground cabling required to replace the dismantled overhead line. If the route is as per previously discussed we would be happy with the proposal as a whole. Although this information is not normally required, given the sensitivity of the site, without confirmation of the route of the underground cabling, it is not possible to provide properly informed advice.

In summary, Historic England has concerns on heritage grounds. However, resolving this issue may simply require the applicant to confirm the route of the cabling is as previously discussed.

Response 23rd April 2018: No objection: The proposed cable route is as discussed and provided this is now considered to be part of the formal submission, then there is no objection to the application being determined. I am also happy, subject to wording being provided by the NNPA Historic Environment Officer, for the necessary watching brief to be secured by condition on any permission issued for the work.

NNPA Ecologist: No objection.

NNPA Historic Environment Officer: No objection: Recommend that groundworks are monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist (watching brief).

NNPA Landscape & Forestry Officer: No objection: The proposed works form part of the Ofgem Undergrounding of Existing Overhead Electricity cables within Sensitive Landscapes Project and as such was proposed to Northern Powergrid by the NNPA for consideration. The proposals will have a beneficial effect upon the landscape character and views of this part of the National Park as the existing overhead cable and supporting cables will be removed and the line undergrounded. I am fully supportive of this work to be approved.



Assessment

Policy Context

Part 15 Class B of the 2015 GPDO states that:

Development by statutory undertakers for the generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity for the purposes of their undertaking consisting of—

(a) the installation or replacement in, on, over or under land of an electric line and the construction of shafts and tunnels and the installation or replacement of feeder or service pillars or transforming or switching stations or chambers reasonably necessary in connection with an electric line;

(f) any other development carried out in, on, over or under the operational land of the undertaking.

constitutes permitted development, unless section 37(1) of the Electricity Act 1989 applies.

The Overhead Lines (Exemption)(England and Wales) Regulations 2009 state that Section 37(1) of the Electricity Act shall not apply in relation to development listed in the exemption regulations; as such, **the proposal is considered to be permitted development and the Local Planning Authority can only object to the proposal on grounds of environmental impact.**

The Local Planning Authority has been consulted under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Overhead lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 in relation to the relocation of a wood pole (no. 5) with new wood 'H' pole and stay wires; replacement of existing wood pole (no.39) with new 'H' poles and stay wires and the removal of eight wood poles.

Comments were sought from Historic England in addition to the NNPA Landscape and Forestry Officer, Historic Environment Officer and Ecologist as part of consideration of the proposed development.

Historic England noted that while the development is in an area of high archaeological sensitivity, the works represent an exciting opportunity to improve the setting of the Roman Fort at Carvoran and the adjacent section of the Hadrian's Wall Roman Frontier. Historic England did however initially have concerns as the route of the underground cabling had not been shown on the submitted plans. This information was subsequently provided and both the NNPA Historic Environment Officer and Historic England have advised that they have no objection providing the works are covered by a watching brief. The applicant has subsequently amended the 'Particulars of the Proposed Development' to state that all works will be subject to Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Brief). It is therefore considered that the proposed works would accord with the requirements of policy 18 in this regard.

The NNPA Landscape and Forestry Officer supports the proposals as it is considered that the proposals will have a beneficial effect upon the landscape character and views of this part of the



National Park as the existing overhead cable and supporting cables will be removed and the line undergrounded. In addition, given the nature, scale and location of the proposals, the NNPA ecologist has raised no objection as it is not considered that proposals would harm the biodiversity of the Park. The proposals are therefore considered to be in accord with the requirements of Core Strategy policies 17 and 20.

Recommendation & Conditions

It is recommended that the following representation is made:

Northumberland National Park Authority raises **no objection** to this notification and **does not** wish the Secretary of State to consider the application.

Background Papers

Planning File 18NP0039EL

	Signature	Date
Planning Officer	Colin Godfrey	21st May 2018
Head of Development Management	S Buylla	23rd May 2018