

Jessica Powis
The Planning Inspectorate

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Leeds
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Contact: Louise White
Ref PREAPP/23/00161

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2 June 2023

Dear Ms Powis,

The Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (Green) NSIP by National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC

Issue Specific Hearing 2 - Action Points for Deadline 4

Please find below Leeds City Council's response to the relevant action points.

Action Point 6

Submit any views about the implications of the Powering Up Britain policy paper and draft NPSs EN-1 and EN-5 for the Proposed Development.

It is considered that the Proposed Development would improve national electricity distribution by alleviating a congested part of the National Grid within Yorkshire. This improvement generally follows the Government's blueprint for the future of energy in England, in terms best described as assisting self-sufficiency and decarbonisation. The Proposed Development appears to be infrastructure which the Government has demonstrated there is a need for and can therefore be deemed as urgent, in accordance with the principle aims and objectives of draft EN-1 and EN-5.

Action Point 9

Submit example referred to in ISH2, of where additional development was attracted by the presence of existing pylons.

The oral example referenced related to a planning application (ref. 23/00450) received by Leeds City Council on 24.01.2023 for erection of a stand-alone 'Battery Energy Storage System and associated works' on land at Westfield Road, Carlton, Leeds WF3 3TW. This planning application was withdrawn by the applicant on 18.04.2023, following officer advice to the applicant that a decision for refusal was to be recommended. The planning application submission can be viewed using Leeds' Public Access System here [23/00450/FU | Erection of Battery Energy Storage Facility and associated works. | Land At Westfield Road Carlton Leeds WF3 3TW](#)

The application site was located on arable land, within the countryside and entirely located within the defined Leeds Green Belt. The proposal included for the installation and use of a new substation within the application site to support the proposed BESS facility. The new sub-station was proposed to be connected via an existing pylon on the site, to feed into the 132kV overhead powerline. The applicant contended within its Alternative Sites Assessment that the application site was the only available and appropriate point of connection within Leeds, as all other more preferable sites (i.e. on or next to existing sub-stations outside of the Green Belt) were occupied or lacking available capacity. Leeds City Council did not consider that the findings contained within the applicant's Alternative Sites Assessment, nor any other material circumstance, amounted to very special circumstances to clearly outweigh the substantial harm to the Green Belt by way of inappropriateness and encroachment within the countryside, together with the significant harm to landscape character and visual amenity.

This case provides a working example of how the presence of existing pylons attracts additional development, within the Green Belt and wider countryside. Whilst this is a relatively new phenomenon, it is very likely that pylon-connected proposals will become more common given i) the local grid-connection constraints throughout England, found particularly within the Leeds City Council administrative district, ii) the Government's commitment to the energy transition and, iii) the Government's aim to increase energy storage in order to better balance the National Grid.

Action Point 32

Provide details of the location and planning status of the solar farm that was referred to as being close to the Leeds City Council boundary within the former Selby area.

The oral reference related to the 'Hayton House Solar Farm and Battery Storage' proposal at land off Great North Road, Aberford, Leeds LS25 3AU. A plan of the proposed site area is shown at **Appendix 1**. Only the access road to this proposal is located within the Leeds administrative district and most of the development is proposed within the former Selby administrative district, now under North Yorkshire Council's control.

We understand that the applicant for this proposal submitted EIA Screening and Scoping Requests to Selby District Council in 2022/23. We are unsure if a subsequent planning application has been submitted to them yet, but no planning application has been made to Leeds City Council for the access within Leeds.

Yours sincerely,

Louise White
Minerals and Waste Planning Team Leader

