



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: n/a (to be assigned on receipt of S37 application)
Your ref: Tyne Crossing Strategic Replacement Project

18th December 2025

Dear Ms Christensen,

**SCREENING DECISION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER THE
ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2017 (“THE 2017
REGULATIONS”)**

NAME OF SCHEME: Tyne Crossing Strategic Replacement Project

Decision:

The Secretary of State concludes that the proposed works are not EIA development under the 2017 Regulations and do not require a statutory EIA as they are unlikely to have significant effects on the environment due to their nature, location and size. A copy of this letter has been sent to the LPA for information.

Screening decision for a proposed development (“the proposed development”) to:

- Install 6 x 275kV towers supporting approximately 1,400 metres of overhead line in two distinct sections at either side of the River Tyne (950 metres and 450 metres)



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- Dismantle 6 x existing towers (ZZA063 to ZZA068) and the associated overhead line.

These overhead line works are associated with a wider project (“the project”) to:

- Bore a 1.6 kilometre tunnel under the River Tyne
- Install new underground 400kV cables in the tunnel
- Construct two tunnel head houses and cable sealing end compounds at either end of the tunnel

Secretary of State considerations:

The Secretary of State has considered the factors set out in Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations, together with the information within the supplied documentation (“the Application”) by National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of North Tyneside Council and South Tyneside Council (“the LPAs”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
2. The proposed development falls under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is 275 kilovolts and therefore requires a mandatory screening.
3. North Tyneside Council was consulted on the project and issued a screening opinion on 25 September 2025, concluding that an EIA is not required.
4. South Tyneside Council was consulted on the project and reached a decision on 28 November 2025. The LPA concluded that an EIA is not required.
5. While cumulative effects were acknowledged, the LPAs concluded that these impacts are expected to be localised and can be effectively mitigated through planning conditions, Construction Environmental Management Plans, and biodiversity strategies.
6. The Applicant provided an Environmental Impact Assessment screening report for the project prepared by WSP (reference: UK0040405.6131) which concluded that significant environmental effects are unlikely and, therefore, EIA is not required. Operational impacts are considered negligible and potential construction impacts can be managed through embedded mitigation and best practice measures. The embedded mitigation measures include:



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- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment to identify and mitigate visual impacts.
 - Construction Traffic Management Plan to manage traffic routing, volumes, and impacts.
 - Water Framework Directive Screening Assessment to address potential water resource impacts.
 - Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening for potential effects on designated sites (SPA, Ramsar, SAC).
 - Dust Risk Assessment and Construction/Operation traffic impact assessments with mitigation measures.
 - Construction Noise and Vibration Assessment, including underwater noise considerations.
 - Archaeological Baseline Study and further evaluation if required.
 - Arboricultural Method Statement following an Arboriculture Impact Assessment, with possible appointment of an Arboricultural Clerk of Works.
 - Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to cover contamination control, waste management, pollution prevention, and ecological protection.
 - Biodiversity Mitigation Strategy integrated into the CEMP for habitat and species protection.
 - Site Waste Management Plan and Materials Management Plan to manage excavated material and reduce landfill disposal.
 - Noise/vibration controls, turbidity controls (e.g., silt curtains), and marine mammal protection measures where relevant.
 - Compliance with EMF guidelines and design standards for health and safety.
 - Flood Risk Assessment and SuDS measures to manage surface water runoff.
7. The proposed development will relocate existing infrastructure in a similar area and as such the visual character of the site will remain largely unchanged. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the proposed development will not result in any significant effects.
 8. When considering the project as a whole, the Secretary of State is satisfied that the embedded mitigation measures will suitably mitigate the limited potential construction impacts and will therefore not result in significant effects.
 9. When considered alongside other major projects such as the Port of Tyne Northside Development Project and large-scale housing and commercial schemes in North and South Tyneside potential combined



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effects include increased construction traffic, noise, dust, and temporary visual impacts, as well as ecological pressures on designated sites and species linked to the River Tyne and River Don corridors. Additional risks relate to sediment runoff, water quality, and minor heritage sensitivities near Jarrow's conservation area. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the embedded mitigation measures effectively mitigate these impacts, and the project will therefore not result in significant effects.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
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