

12 January 2024

**Via Planning Portal only:**  
Development Management  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council**Your Reference**  
PP-12661658**Our Reference**  
60641917**SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION UNDER THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED) FOR CABLE ROUTE DIVERSION (ASSOCIATED TO PLANNING PERMISSION 22/01990/STPLFE)**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We write on behalf of our client, National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant'), in respect of the above planning application which has been submitted via the Planning Portal (PP-12661658). Hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion', this planning application seeks planning permission for:

*"Construction of sub-surface cable route and associated infrastructure in relation to the Eastern Green Link 2"*

The following information has been submitted as part of this planning application:

- Site Location Plan ref SEGL2\_T\_PA\_2\_240108\_New\_Skerne\_Site\_Location\_Plan\_v1 (for approval)
- Block Plan ref SEGL2\_T\_PA\_3\_240108\_New\_Skerne\_Block\_Plan\_v1 (for approval)
- Block Plan- Skerne Amendment (SEGL 2\_P88\_v4\_20231211) (for information only)
- Environmental Statement Addendum (January 2024, AECOM).
- A Flood Risk Assessment (Environmental Statement Appendix 11B) (AECOM, May 2022) and High-Level Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Environmental Statement Appendix 8C) (May 2022, AECOM) were (submitted as part of planning application ref 22/01990/STPLFE, which also remains relevant to this planning application)<sup>1</sup>.

The Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion has been designed to tie in with the directional alterations proposed within a corresponding S73 application submitted to ERYC (PP-12661453). These applications have been submitted simultaneously for consideration by ERYC. This approach was discussed with James Chatfield (Planning Manager Strategic, ERYC) over Microsoft Teams on 4th January 2024.

Full planning permission ref: 22/01990/STPLFE, was granted in March 2023 by East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) as the local planning authority for the *"Construction of sub-surface cable route from Drax Power Station to Fraisthorpe Coastline with associated accesses and temporary construction compounds in association with the Scotland to England Green Link"* (hereafter referred to as the 'Approved Development'). The Approved Development, also referred to as the 'English Onshore Scheme' (EOS) is part of the East Green Link 2 Project (EGL2), a major reinforcement of the electricity transmission system which will provide additional north-south transmission capacity across transmission network boundaries ensuring that green energy is transported from where it is produced to where it is needed.

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<sup>1</sup> ERYC Public Access

<https://newplanningaccess.eastriding.gov.uk/newplanningaccess/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RDH365BJML700> (Accessed Jan 2024)

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The extent of the Approved Development spans a number of landownership boundaries. Since submission of the planning application, on one parcel of land, an agricultural building (hereafter referred to as 'Skerne Barn') has been erected by a landowner. This agricultural building extends into the application boundary of the Approved Development; however, sufficient provision exists within the approved application boundary and limits of deviation (LoD) for the underground High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable route to be installed to the north of the buildings within the approved route corridor. The Applicant has engaged with the landowner and understands that they intend to erect additional buildings to the north of Skerne Barn. As a result, and to work with the landowner, a planning application has been submitted to ERYC for an alternative route approximately 60m to the south of this area, within an adjacent agricultural field.

## Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion

This planning application seeks consent for a 585.7 metre (m) new section of cable to facilitate a diversion of the Approved Development. The Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion has been designed to tie in with directional alterations proposed within a corresponding S73 application submitted to ERYC (PP-12661453).

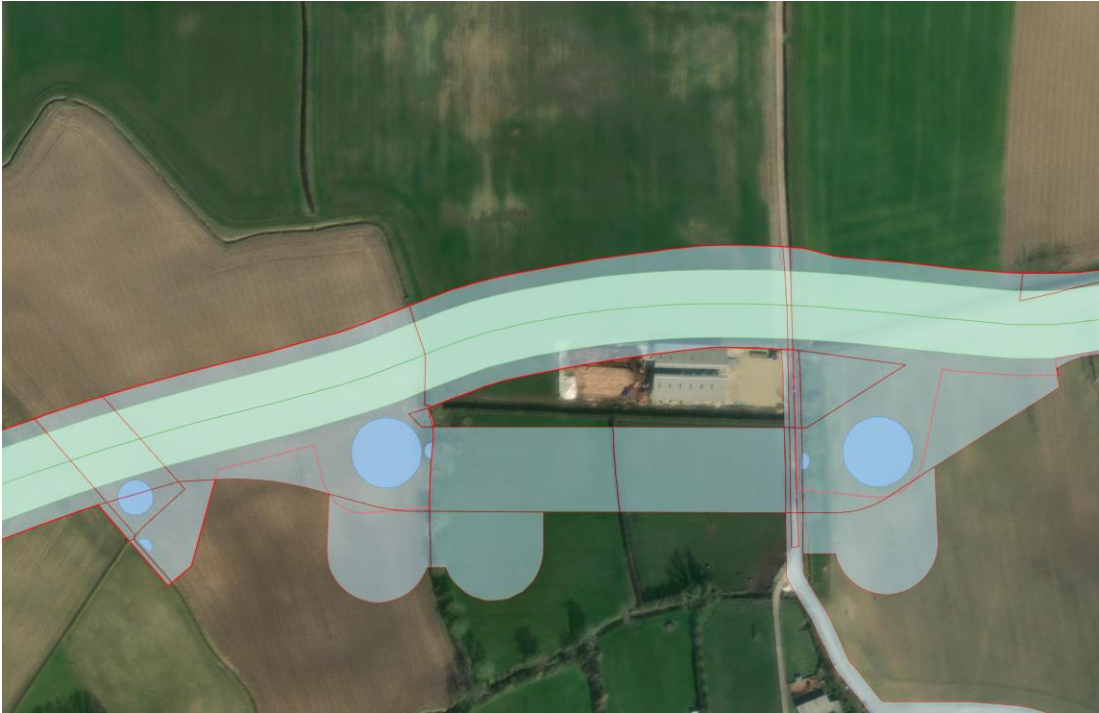
The corresponding S73 application to the Approved Development seeks to remove a 581.5m section of cable. At each end of the proposed 'break' in the cable, directional alterations are proposed to facilitate connection into the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion. Two approved attenuation ponds will move further south outside of the approved redline boundary for planning application ref 22/01990/STPLFE, though will otherwise remain unchanged. The two attenuation ponds will instead sit within the new redline boundary for this full planning application, as shown in **Figure 3**.

**Figure 1** shows the location of the Site subject to this planning application, whilst **Figure 2** shows the Approved Development and its overlap with Skerne Barn.

**Figure 1: Site Location Plan**



Figure 2 Skerne Barn Overlap



**Figure 3** below shows the amendment to the Approved Development; and proposed diversion cable route which will be connected into. The section shaded in grey is part of the approved redline boundary, and therefore the area subject to the corresponding S73 application submitted to ERYC (*PP-12661453*). The area highlighted in red, is subject to this separate, full planning application. The area in green shows the remaining consented cable route, to remain unchanged.

Figure 3: Extent of Proposed Amendments



## Site Description

The Site subject to this full planning application:

- covers 2.4505ha and comprises agricultural land;
- is located to the north of Skerne;
- the land is generally flat, with areas of broken vegetation planting or hedgerow;
- is located within Flood Zone 1 and is therefore at low risk of flooding;
- partially sits within a Mineral Safeguarding Zone<sup>2</sup>; and
- does not contain any Listed Buildings or Scheduled Monuments. The closest listed buildings are:
  - 'The Eagle', Grade II listed, and circa 400 metres to the south,
  - Church of St Leonard, and Grade I listed, circa 630 metres to the south.

<sup>2</sup>ERYC Interactive Constraints Map  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c9f70de68b9a4d38aeb721e62d0f6284/page/Page/?draft=true> (Accessed 08/01/2024)

## Design Details

### Construction of the English Onshore Scheme

#### HVDC Cable

Cable installation will be undertaken as previously set out and accepted by ERYC through the granting of the Approved Development. Given that the two applications will be interlinked/reliant on each other, construction for both the Approved Development, and Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion subject to this planning application will take place simultaneously.

Cable installation and commissioning for the underground HVDC cable route is scheduled to take approximately five years. The indicative installation programme assumes a start date for installation activities in late 2024 and for the link to be commissioned prior to the end of 2029. Typical work activity phasing for the installation of the DC cables would include:

- bellmouth creation and construction compound establishment, amending existing access routes (where necessary);
- creation of haul road/working width;
- cable trench excavation and HDD of sensitive crossing;
- establishing joint bays;
- cable laying/ pulling through ducts;
- cable trench backfilling and reinstatement; and
- removal of construction compounds, and making good land used temporarily for construction (construction compound and access will remain the same as approved under related application ref 22/01990/STPLFE).

Cable installation is not required to be undertaken sequentially; as a result, installation could occur in multiple sections along the length of the Approved Development in parallel and therefore enabling the construction period to be reduced compared to an end-to-end linear sequential installation. Restoration works will also be undertaken progressively, with restoration undertaken on completion of installation works in each location.

The exact phasing of some activities will depend on the Contractor and detailed design, however further details of the Converter Station programme can be found in Chapter 3: Project Description of the Original ES<sup>3</sup>, submitted under application ref 22/01990/STPLFE. Details remain the same for the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion subject to this planning application.

## Planning Policy Context

### The Development Plan

The Site is within the administrative boundary of East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The relevant adopted Development Plan is the Local Development Scheme which comprises:

- East Riding Local Plan Strategy Document 2012-2029 (2016)
- East Riding Local Plan Allocations Document 2012-2029 (2016)
- Policies Map 2016.

A Planning Statement (AECOM, May 2022) was submitted in support of the Approved Development (22/01990/STPLFE). Chapter 7 of the Planning Statement sets out all policies relevant to the Approved Development; and each policy is considered to remain relevant in relation to this application for the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion, though have not been provided below in detail to avoid repetition.

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<sup>3</sup> ERYC Public Access

<https://newplanningaccess.eastriding.gov.uk/newplanningaccess/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RDH365BJML700> (Accessed Jan 2024)

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## Local Planning Policy Updates

ERYC have made progress on the Emerging Development Plan: Draft East Riding Local Plan Update 2020 – 2039, which was submitted for examination in March 2023. The Inspector has identified a number of matters and issues to consider as part of the examination and invited the council and interested parties to provide written responses in August 2023. Hearing Sessions took place between the 31<sup>st</sup> of October and 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. ERYC will now undertake work identified by the Inspector through the Hearing Sessions.

There are no significant updates to the Draft Local Plan that have not already been considered in detail for Approved Development (22/01990/STPLFE).

## National Planning Policy Updates

### National Planning Policy Framework

Minor updates were made to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in September and December 2023. There are no updates to the NPPF that have not already been considered in detail for the Approved Development (22/01990/STPLFE)

## Energy National Policy Statements (NPS)

### Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)

The 'Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)' (NPS EN-1) sets out national policy for energy infrastructure developments that meet the Planning Act 2008 definition of 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (NSIPs). NP EN-1 was updated in March 2023.

Section 1.2.1 of NPS EN-1 makes it clear that this NPS is likely to be a material consideration in decision making on applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). This is an important material consideration where the development comprises 2GW of transmission capacity. There are no updates to the NPS EN-1 that have not already been considered in detail for the Approved Development (22/01990/STPLFE).

## Planning Appraisal

Key environmental considerations have been considered in the Environmental Statement Addendum (January 2024, AECOM) (ES Addendum) submitted as part of this full planning application. The Site subject to this planning application reflects that circa 60 metres to the north from a land use and environmental perspective (within the approved redline for the Approved Development (22/01990/STPLFE)).

The Site itself comprises a small area of agricultural land, with limited tree and hedgerows/no additional built form and is therefore comparable with that to the north at Skerne Barn. **Table 7-1** of the ES Addendum provides an overarching summary of effects reported in the Original ES for the Approved Development; as well as providing a summary of the potential change to effects as a result of the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion Site.

The Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion will result in the working area moving 60m closer to residential receptors in Skerne village. However, affected properties will remain greater than 60m from the closest working area (this being the revised attenuation pond location). Construction impact will be temporary and controlled through measures such as a submitted CTMP and CEMP and as such, it not considered to have additional significant effects.

The ES Addendum notes that a small section of hedgerow will need to be removed between two improved grassland fields to accommodate Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion. This is not considered to have additional significant effects on the basis that alternative and suitable available habitat lies in the vicinity of the Site, and that appropriate mitigation measures were previously identified for the Approved Development, of which remain relevant (this includes matters such as management of Great Crested Newts). It is considered that the proposed changes do not present a significant change that would impact the agreed licensing under the District Level Licencing scheme in relation to the Approved Development under application ref 22/01990/STPLFE. Contact will be made with Natural England on submission of this planning application to advise them of the change to the Approved Development, and related area of new redline boundary.

The ES Addendum concludes that there are no changes to the effects reported within the Original ES. As such, the conclusions remain valid in relation to the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion.

It is anticipated that all planning conditions set out on the decision notice for the Approved Development (22/01990/STPLFE) will be duplicated should this application for the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion be granted planning permission, and such, any related mitigation and management measures will be replicated.

## Summary

In summary, and as demonstrated through the application for the Approved Development, the principle of a subsurface cable route to the north of Skerne has been accepted. Through the proposed design and other mitigation measures associated with the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion, any previously identified effects have been minimised as far as possible in accordance with local and national policy.

The ES Addendum that accompanies this full planning application concludes that the nature and location of the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion is not materially different from that presented in the Original ES and as such, does not cause any new additional direct or indirect environmental impacts. Therefore, the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion as a whole (for rerouting of part of the cable route), does not result in additional or increased environmental effects.

It is considered the Proposed Skerne Barn Cable Diversion complies with the Development Plan as a whole and that the Development Plan and other material considerations point strongly in favour of the grant of planning permission in accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Should you have any queries in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me using the details listed below, or my colleague Chris King at [chris.king@aecom.com](mailto:chris.king@aecom.com).

Yours faithfully,



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