

North Yorkshire County Council

Business and Environmental Services

Executive Members

27 May 2022

Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project

Report of the Assistant Director – Growth, Planning and Trading Standards

1.0 Purpose Of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to set out:

- An overview of the Yorkshire Green application.
- The Consenting Regime
- The County Council's involvement in the project to date
- The County Council's working relationship with the District Councils

1.2 Also that the Business and Environmental Services (BES) Executive Member for Open for Business authorises the BES Corporate Director to authorise the Local Impact Report, the Statement of Common Ground and further representations in response to questions from the Examining Authority on behalf of the County Council in relation to the proposal.

2.0 The Project

2.1 The project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIPs) due to size and nature (power generation). In recent years the County Council has dealt with NSIP applications at Eggborough and Drax power station sites and there are currently 5 such applications within the County boundary being considered at the pre-application stage.

2.2 The planning application will take the form of a Development Consent Order (DCO) which will be determined by the Secretary of State. The District Council in which the projects sit are the relevant planning authority for the discharge of the planning requirements within the DCO. North Yorkshire County Council is the Highways Authority and will be a consultee. The final decision however as to whether to grant permission for development lies with the Secretary of State.

2.3 National Grid Electricity Transmission is proposing to upgrade and reinforce the electricity transmission system in Yorkshire, spanning three local authority areas in our area; Selby, Harrogate and Hambleton Districts. This reinforcement is needed to improve the transfer of clean energy across the country.

2.4 Power flows are set to double within the next ten years as new low carbon energy generation from onshore wind energy projects in Scotland, offshore wind projects in the North Sea and subsea cables to other countries connect to the network. The Yorkshire GREEN proposal aims to allow this energy to flow securely and efficiently on the network, balancing and maintaining supply and demand. It will link two existing overhead transmission lines, allowing additional energy to flow north to south. This will increase network capacity and flexibility.

- 2.5 The Yorkshire GREEN application proposes both construction of new infrastructure and works to existing transmission infrastructure and facilities. An overall location plan of the Yorkshire GREEN Project (taken from National Grid Electricity Transmission’s Statutory Consultation Documents) is included within Appendix A.
- 2.6 The proposed new infrastructure includes:
- A new 400kV overhead line will connect into the existing overhead line with two sealing end compounds and a short section of underground cable in the north west of York.
 - This line runs south, connecting into a new substation, called Overton substation, located approximately 1km south of Shipton-by-Beningbrough.
 - Two new 275kV overhead lines will be routed south out of Overton substation and connect into the existing 275kV overhead line.
 - Two new cable sealing end compounds and short sections of underground cables located south-west of Tadcaster.
 - A new substation located adjacent to and connecting into the existing substation at Monk Fryston, south-west of Monk Fryston.
- 2.7 Works to existing infrastructure are proposed to include:
- A section of overhead line between the two new 275kV overhead lines will be permanently removed.
 - Replacement of some pylons and realignment of the existing overhead line will take place in two locations – to the south and south-east of Moor Monkton and where the existing overhead lines enter Monk Fryston substation.
 - Replacement of overhead line conductors (wires), replacement of pylon fittings, strengthening of steelwork and works to pylon foundations.
 - Minor works at the existing Osbaldwick substation.
- 2.8 Construction is expected to start in Q3 2024 and be completed by Q3 2028.

3.0 Application Timescale

October– December 2021	Statutory Consultation – Timely consultation took place at the end of last year with discussions on outcomes. North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) did not raise any issues that that would result in a form of objection.
December 2021–Winter 2022	Consideration of feedback – The applicant will review feedback from the statutory consultation, finalise the Project and continue engagement prior to submission of the DCO application.
Winter 2022	Application submission – The applicant’s plan to submit the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in winter 2022. The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, has up to 28 days to decide whether or not the application meets the standards required to be accepted for examination.
Winter 2022– Winter/Spring 2023	Examination – If the application is accepted, it will go through a six-month examination period. Prior to this period, stakeholders can register with the Planning Inspectorate to become an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation. Interested Parties are invited to provide more details of their views in writing during this phase. Consideration is given by the Examining Authority, including all relevant representations, and supporting evidence. North Yorkshire County Council will use this opportunity to raise the issues it considers most pertinent to the examination.

4.0 Joint Working with District Councils, Local Government Reorganisation and the Planning Performance Agreement

- 4.1 The scheme spans different Local Authority areas, some more significantly affected than others. NYCC and the three district councils (Harrogate Borough and Selby and Hambleton) are entering into a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) with the applicant. The main purpose of the PPA will be funding to resource the application on a basic time cost reimbursement basis. Where a specific lack of resources has been identified, for example in landscape and visual assessment, the County Council will work with the applicant to secure funding to procure outside resource to deliver that work.
- 4.2 Consideration is being given to a joint local Impact Report and Statement of Common Ground with the other Local Authorities involved in the project. At this point, officers have agreed to work jointly where possible but must remain practical when considering delegation, sign off and overall agreement with the tight timeframes of an examination.
- 4.3 The timetable set out by the applicant provides for the DCO application to be submitted towards the end of 2022. This would result in the 6 month examination period spanning the vesting date for LGR.
- 4.4 The PPA will reference LGR and include a clause concerning the continuation of the agreement once the District Councils and the County Council cease to exist.
- 4.5 The County Council and the three District Councils will as far as possible submit joint responses up until the date of LGR. This is the approach taken in NSIP applicants in the past and is encouraged outside of the process of LGR. The Planning Inspectorate are aware of the upcoming changes and the Examining Authority will be informed as soon as one is appointed.

5.0 Delegation

- 5.1 Leading up to the submission of the application to the examiner there will be significant resource implications for the County Council hence the PPA. Once submitted the examination timetable is set, creating its own time pressure. Officers have found it helpful in the past to have agreement of documents such as the Local Impact Report and the Statement of Common Ground delegated to the Director for Business and Environmental Services for authorization by the Executive Member for Open for Business.

6.0 Equalities

- 6.1 Consideration has been given to the potential for any adverse equality impacts arising from the recommendation. It is the view of officers that the recommendation does not have an adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics identified in the Equalities Act 2010. The initial Equalities Impact Assessment form is attached at Appendix B.

7.0 Finance

- 7.1 The financial implications for the County Council are limited to the staff time to resource its engagement with the application. There are no other costs or risks attached to the application. As in section 4 above, the County Council intends to recoup the staffing costs on an hourly rate basis from the applicant. The PPA is still being negotiated and it is likely that the applicant will not reimburse costs for tasks that the County Council is required by statute to carry out, such as attendance at certain hearings.

7.2 In terms of discharging the requirements of the DCO that relate to the land within the administrative boundary of North Yorkshire, fees will be payable to the District Councils (or the new unitary council) as the relevant planning authority for the purpose of the DCO. The County Council may also seek to agree appropriate planning obligations, in conjunction with District Councils to address the impacts referred to above, if considered necessary in planning terms.

7.3 In practical terms, the application is unlikely to be determined before vesting day therefore any fees or current Local Planning Authority functions to be carried out in relation to discharge of the application will fall to the new Unitary Council. As above, the only cost to the Unitary Council will be staff resources. In past applications, Planning Performance Agreements have been agreed to cover the cost of the Councils post examination work load and such an agreement would be pursued in this case.

8.0 Legal

8.1 The County Council is a Statutory Consultee and support for the scheme is subject to agreeing the requirements in the DCO and section 106 Agreement if required.

8.2 The County Council will have further involvement in its role as Statutory Consultee following submission of the application and during the examinations period, including possible attendance at issue specific, and DCO public hearings.

8.3 The DCO and other legal documents will make reference and allow for Local Government Re-organisation in relation to any of the above points where necessary..

9.0 Climate Change

9.1 The Application is not a County Council Scheme. A full Environmental Statement will be prepared by the applicant and submitted as part of the application. Through the application process Local Authority officers will respond on the scoping report and the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and finally the full Environmental Statement. Our response to this will form a large part of our response to the application. The climate change impact assessment is at Appendix C.

10.0 Recommendation(S)

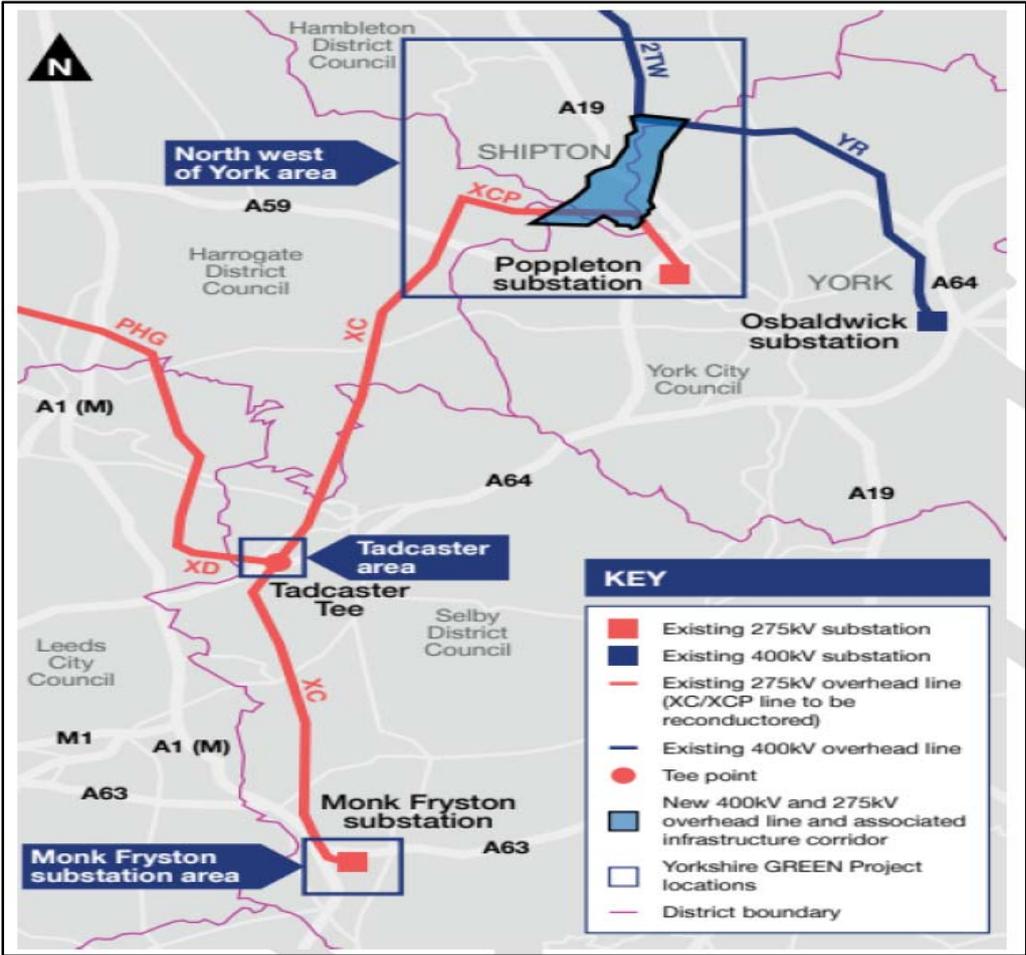
- 10.1 It is recommended that the contents of this report are noted and
- a) the County Council supports this NSIP Development Consent Order application in principle, subject to agreement in relation to specific and localised matters of detail;
 - b) Also that the BES Executive Member for Open for Business authorises the Corporate Director, BES to authorise the Local Impact Report, Impact Report, the Statement of Common Ground and further representations in response to questions from the Examining Authority on behalf of the County Council in relation to the proposal.

Matt O'Neill

Assistant Director Growth, Planning and Trading Standards

Author of Report: Michael Reynolds, Senior Policy Officer (Infrastructure)

Background Documents: None



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Initial equality impact assessment screening form	
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.	
Directorate	Business and Environmental Services
Service area	Growth, Planning and Trading Standards
Proposal being screened	Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Michael Reynolds
What are you proposing to do?	<p>National Grid Electricity Transmission is proposing to upgrade and reinforce the electricity transmission system in Yorkshire, spanning three local authority areas in our area; Selby, Harrogate and Hambleton Districts. This reinforcement is needed to improve the transfer of clean energy across the country.</p> <p>The Yorkshire GREEN application proposes both construction of new infrastructure and works to existing transmission infrastructure and facilities. This report seeks:</p> <p>c) the County Council supports this NSIP Development Consent Order application in principle, subject to agreement in relation to specific and localised matters of detail;</p> <p>d) Also that the BES Executive Member for Open for Business authorises the Corporate Director, BES to authorise the Local Impact Report, Impact Report, the Statement of Common Ground and further representations in response to questions from the Examining Authority on behalf of the County Council in relation to the proposal.</p>
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	<p>NYCC has a statutory role in the planning work relating to a NSIP. The county has no reason to object to the proposals and therefore is seeking authorisation to express its support in principle.</p> <p>The desired outcome is clarity to the Applicant and to the other parties over the county council's role and position in regard to the application, and to how items of work surrounding the application will be undertaken.</p>
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	NYCC resources will be met in part by applicant under the proposed Planning Performance Agreement.
<p>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics</p> <p>As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? • Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? • Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? 	

If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your [Equality rep](#) for advice if you are in any doubt.

Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		X	
Disability		X	
Sex		X	
Race		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Religion or belief		X	
Pregnancy or maternity		X	
Marriage or civil partnership		X	
NYCC additional characteristics			
People in rural areas		X	
People on a low income		X	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		X	
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No		
Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No		
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to full EIA:
Reason for decision	<p>The report asks for authorisation for technical planning work to be undertaken within a clear context. This will allow the application to be developed further, in order that a planning consent decision can be taken at some point in the future.</p> <p>The technical work will not of itself have any 'on the ground' impact'. Therefore, it is not considered that there will be any impact on any of the people who fall within any of the protected characteristic groups.</p>		
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Matt O'Neill		
Date	27-05-2022		



Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:

Planning Permission
Environmental Impact Assessment
Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk for advice.

Title of proposal	Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project
Brief description of proposal	National Grid Electricity Transmission is proposing to upgrade and reinforce the electricity transmission system in Yorkshire, spanning three local authority areas in our area; Selby, Harrogate and Hambleton Districts. This reinforcement is needed to improve the transfer of clean energy across the country. The Yorkshire GREEN application proposes both construction of new infrastructure and works to existing transmission infrastructure and facilities.
Directorate	Business and Environmental Services
Service area	Growth Planning and Trading Standards
Lead officer	Michael Reynolds
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	-
Date impact assessment started	27-05-2022

Options appraisal

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

The proposal is put forward by National Grid Electricity Transmission. It is not an NYCC led project.

What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

Resource implications on the Council will be covered by the proposed Planning Performance Agreement with the Applicant

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
<p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	Emissions from travel						
	Emissions from construction						
	Emissions from running of buildings						
	Other						
<p>Minimise waste: Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic</p>							
<p>Reduce water consumption</p>							
<p>Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>							

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>						
<p>Enhance conservation and wildlife</p>						
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape</p>						
<p>Other (please state below)</p>						

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

Summary Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

This is not a County Council Scheme.

The Application is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).

A full Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the application. Prior to submission the applicant will draft and consult upon the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report. (PEIR)

County Council Officers together with officers from Richmondshire District Council have and will continue to engage with the application in the following environmental areas which will include the completed project and construction impacts:

- Ecology and Biodiversity
- Historic Landscape and Heritage
- Landscape
- Minerals and Waste Planning
- Air Pollution
- Noise Pollution
- Light Pollution
- Land Contamination
- Impact upon the highway
- Drainage and water impact
- Wider climate change impact
- Socio Economic Impacts

To date the County Council has submitted responses to the applicants scoping report and been engaged in technical meetings on some of the above topic areas.

Following assessment of the application when it has been received the County Council officers will seek to impact the application through:

- Change of the application itself
- Development Consent Order requirements
- Mitigation through S106 agreement

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

Name	Michael Reynolds
Job title	Senior Policy Officer (Infrastructure)
Service area	Growth Planning and Trading Standards
Directorate	Business and Environmental Services
Signature	Michael Reynolds
Completion date	13 May 2022

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature):

Date: