

FAO Mr David Grimshaw
Development Management
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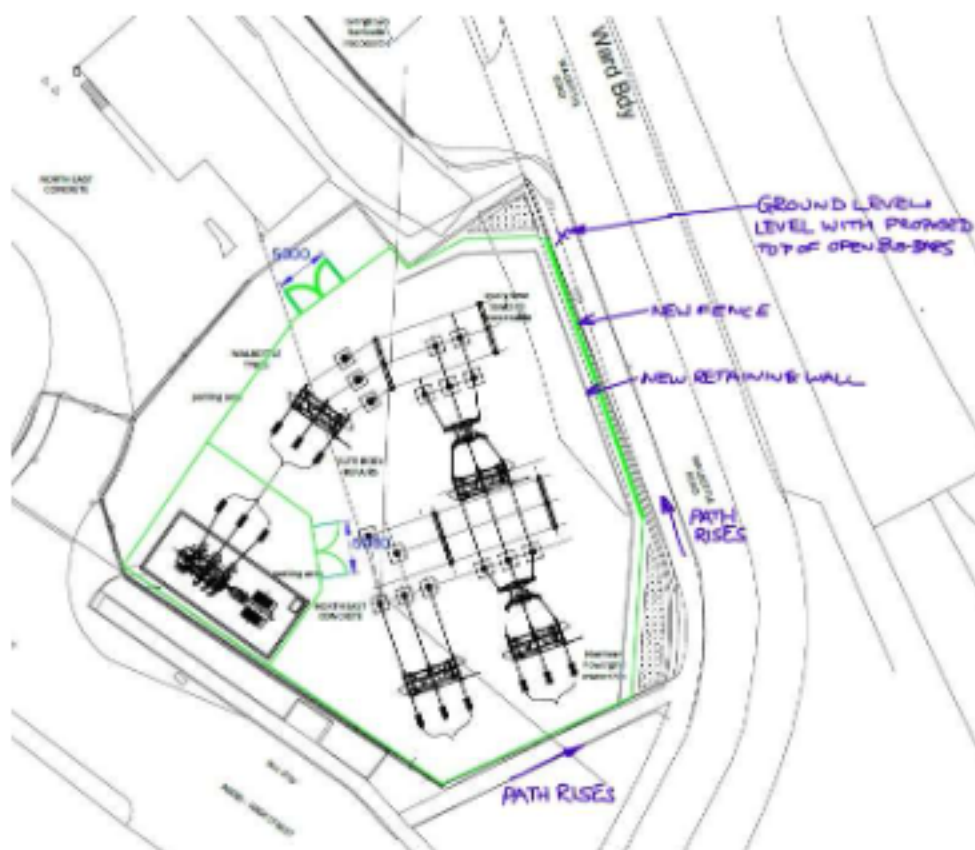
Re - Planning Application 2024/0447/01/DET

Proposed BES Wallbottle Road, Newburn

Dear Sir,

What concerns me about this planning application is not what it is, but what it is and where it is located and the safety provisions indicated for it.

My points all relate to the open DNO substation to the south of the site. I say open as the switchgear being used is open to the atmosphere, so it is using air as the insulation medium on the 132kV bus-bars.



From the front corner of the DNO substation the path rises with Wallbottle Road. The perimeter of the substation is indicated to have only a 2.35m palisade metal security fence.

Yet if you refer to other local DNO substation of this voltage, there is also a 1m high electric fence on the top of the security fence. I can find no reference to this on the drawings or in the documents. But I'm sure it's going to be needed.

Given the way the Wallbottle Road raps around the site and rises as it goes you will note that as indicated on the plan above. The ground level on the road side external to the substation is at the same level as the open bus-bars within the sub-station. Given the nature of the proposed fencing. It would be possible and easy to push/through item's between the railings and have them make contact with the open 132kV bus-bars. This would be a highly dangerous thing to try and if managed would likely kill the person or at least short the bars out. Alternative fencing needs to be looked at for this stretch of the perimeter I would suggest.

I note that there is to be a new retaining wall to be constructed along the Walbottle Road perimeter. I can't find any height for this indicated. But what I would note is that both busses and heavy lorries (going to the waste recycling centre) regularly use this road. The slop on the road rises for another 75m approx. So if the road is icy or brakes fail, then there is a good distance for momentum to be built up before the perimeter is reached. Any form of vehicle leaving the road and entering at the high point of the sub-station could also make contact with the open bus-bars.

Therefore the new retaining wall should be of a height and strength to ensure that no vehicle could get through the perimeter fence/wall and enter the substation.

Regards



Reference Picture

Profile of Walbottle Road starting at the low point.

