



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Mr Nick Perkins
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Our ref: 1528U
Your ref: WSE/NP/3999775

24 May 2022

Dear Mr Perkins,

**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: FORD HILL FARM, TEMPLE GUITING

Screening decision for a proposed development to re-route the existing overhead line to the west on land near Temple Guiting, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 5XU. The proposed development will involve the removal of the existing overhead line and seven poles and the installation of a new three phase 11kV overhead electricity line of approximately 560 metres which will include six new poles and an additional third electricity cable (the “proposed works”).

The proposed works require Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and are subject to the 2017 Regulations.

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 Western Power Distribution (West Midlands) Plc (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed works and the views of the Cotswold District Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

- The proposed works do not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
- The proposed works fall under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area;
- The proposed works are to provide a minor diversion of an existing 11kV line and add one extra cable compared to existing overhead line’s layout;



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- The existing line and proposed works are within the Cotswolds Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), however due to the minor diversion and changes compared to the layout of the existing overhead electricity line, the application does not suggest that there will be any adverse effects to the landscape elements and character of the AONB;
- The Cotswolds National Landscape was consulted and confirmed that in their view there is unlikely to be a significant change in the landscape and visual impact arising from the proposed works (email dated 18 May 2022).
- There are no statutory designated sites within 1 kilometre of the proposed works. The closest statutory designated site is the Hornsleasow Roughs Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at approximately 1.75 kilometres. Other designated sites are the Hornsleasow Quarry Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at approximately 2.4 kilometres and the Bourton Down Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at approximately 3 kilometres. However, the Application does not suggest that there is any likelihood of impacts to these sites due to the distance and nature of the proposed works;
- The Application indicates that sections of hedgerow or vegetation in the area of the proposed works have potential to support nesting birds, reptiles and badgers. However, any potential impact to such protected species will be mitigated through the implementation of the precautionary measure as detailed in the Ecological Assessment submitted with the Application (C2874-1 Overhead Power Line Diversion at Ford Hill Farm, Temple Guiting – Ecological Assessment by Swift Ecology, dated 12 January 2022);
- Natural England was consulted, and stated they have no objections to the Application, and that the proposed works will not have significant adverse impacts on statutorily protected nature conservation sites. (letter dated 27 April 2022, ref. 388906).
- The existing overhead line oversails one designated heritage asset, the Woad Round Barrow scheduled monument. The new line will be installed in approximately the same location as the existing one, however no harm is anticipated to arise from the proposed works to the heritage significance of this site as the Application indicates that no vehicle access into the scheduled area will occur;
- Historic England was consulted and confirmed that the proposed works will not involve any direct impact on the Woad Round Barrow scheduled monument (email dated 20 April 2022);
- The Application does not suggest there will be any cumulative adverse effects given that the proposed works are to divert an existing overhead line in the same area and there are no other known proposed or existing developments nearby;
- The LPA was consulted, and their views are that as the proposed works are modest in nature and scale, replacing existing overhead lines along a similar route. There will not be a significant visual change in the appearance of the area, nor an increase in urban built form within the landscape. The openness and character of the area will be retained, with the special qualities of the AONB preserved and as such an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not recommended by the LPA. However, the LPA recommends the implementation of the mitigation measures and recommendations proposed in the Ecological Assessment submitted with the Application (Form B dated 11 February 2022, Ref. 21/03570/OHL).

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, the Secretary of State concludes that the proposed works are not EIA development under the 2017 Regulations and



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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.

Yours sincerely,

Francesco Marolda
Overhead Lines Manager
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