



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**Department for Business, Energy &  
Industrial Strategy**

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Mr Bob Meggitt  
National Grid Distribution (West Midlands) Plc  
10 Fishmore View  
Ludlow  
SY8 2PR

Our ref: 1422U  
Your ref: 1385699

22 December 2022,

Dear Mr Meggitt,

**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: BROOKHOUSE CROSSWAYS INTERCONNECTOR**

**LOCATION: Land adjacent to Stybank, Newcastle Cravan Arms, Shropshire**

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

- Install a new 11kV overhead electricity line of approximately 1834 metres to provide an interconnection between two circuits.

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

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“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 Distribution (West Midlands) Plc (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed works and the views of the Shropshire Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:



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1. The proposed works do not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
2. 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;
3. The proposed works are to install a new 11kV overhead electricity line of approximately 1834 metres within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). One other statutorily designated site, the Rhos Fiddle Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and five Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) non-statutory sites are located within 1 kilometre of the proposed works. However, any potential effects to these sites will be mitigated subject to the implementation of adequate measures as detailed in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) being submitted to and approved in writing by the Shropshire Council prior to start of the proposed works. The CEMP will include (but not limited to) all measures identified in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Report submitted by the Applicant (report dated June 2021, ref. 100621.PEA);
4. The Application indicates that the proposed works have the potential to affect habitats suitable to support protected species, breeding birds and roosting bats. However, any potential impact to protected species and breeding birds will be mitigated via ground and arial inspections being carried out by a competent ecologist prior to the start of the proposed works. The ecologist shall advise the Applicant on species-specific working method statements (in agreement with the Shropshire Council) should any evidence of the above species be found;
5. The Application does not suggest there will be any cumulative adverse effect with other existing and approved developments and no other developments are known by the Secretary of State;
6. The Application suggests that the proposed works do not pass through any designated heritage assets. The closest scheduled monument is the Caer-Din Ring located at approximately 2 kilometres from the route of the new line at its closest point and no harm is anticipated to arise from the proposal to the heritage significance of this monument;
7. The Shropshire Council have considered that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for the proposed works (Screening views dated 28 February 2022, and Form B, dated 06 August 2020, ref. 20/02563/OHL);
8. The Shropshire Wildlife Trust were contacted about the development but did not provide any comment or observation on the development;
9. Natural England were approached by the applicant detailing the proposed works but did not provide any comment or observation on the development.

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, the Secretary of State concludes that the proposed works 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 Shropshire Council for information.



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Yours sincerely,

*John McKenna*  
Head of Network Consents  
Energy Infrastructure Planning