



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Kerri Robinson  
By email

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Our ref: 1581U  
Your ref: 4153917

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Dear Ms Robinson,

**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: Muddle Farm Barn Sibford Gower**

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

- Upgrade 4,600 metres of existing overhead line by adding a third wire;
- Replace existing poles on the current overhead line where required.

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 Electricity Distribution (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Cherwell District Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
2. The proposed development falls under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area;

3. The proposed development falls within Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ("the AONB"). However, as the works are on an existing line and no new infrastructure will be built, there will be little impact on the AONB. Additionally, the LPA have also commented that there will be very little impact on the AONB.

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 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,

Energy Infrastructure Planning