



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Bennath Coad  
Via email

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Our ref: 1606U  
Your ref: CW51673 Aller Court Solar Park BC

21 June 2023

Dear Ms Coad,

**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:** CW51673 Aller Court Solar Park BC

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

- Dismantle an existing tower and build a new nine metre tower, two ‘H’ poles and associated overhead electricity lines.

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 South Somerset 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 an Impact Risk Zone for a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Natural England were consulted about the works and provided their assent but informed the applicant that the Somerset Level and Moors Special Protection Area, which is within 2 kilometres of the site, is used by birds who also use the wider flood plain area, which includes the location of this application. Natural England advised the applicant to include bird flight diverters on the overhead lines to help minimise any risk of collision. The applicant has subsequently informed the Secretary of State that engineers are currently looking to install these diverters.

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,

John McKenna  
Energy Infrastructure Planning