



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Mr Andrew Dean  
Via email

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Our ref: 1628U  
Your ref: 4104513

14 September 2023

Dear Mr Dean,

**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: Eiford Heath Recon**

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

- Upgrade 360 metres of the existing overhead line from two wires to three wires.

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 Stafford 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;



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3. The proposed development is in an Impact Risk Zone for a Site of Special Scientific Interest (“the SSSI”). Natural England reviewed the application and confirmed that there would be no impact on the SSSI by the development.
4. The proposed development is in a red impact zone for Great Crested Newts. The applicant has not provided an ecological report with the application, and therefore the Great Crested Newt officer commented in the report that there was a high chance of Great Crested Newts being in the area. However, given the size of the development and the distance between the overhead line and the pond, there is unlikely to be any constraints for the development.
5. The council’s tree officer requested that the applicant provides the LPA with an Arboricultural Method Statement to approve prior to the works commencing. The LPA has also requested that this is placed as a condition to the consent. This method statement has not formed part of this application, however the Secretary of State is satisfied that the condition on the consent for the LPA to approve the method statement is enough to mitigate any potential impact on the trees.

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