



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr Nigel Merrifield
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Our ref: 1805u
Your ref: 4832252

25 January 2024

Dear Mr Merrifield,

**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: SUPPLY UPGRADE BOATHYDE NORTHAM

Decision:

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.

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

- Upgrade approximately 100 metres of an existing 2 wire 11 kV overhead line to 3 wires
- Replace two poles

Secretary of State considerations:

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 Torrington District Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching her 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 a designated sensitive area:
 - North Devon Biosphere Reserve
 - A Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Taw-Torrington Estuary SSSI
4. LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 22 November 2023 (planning reference: GE/0820/2023).
5. Natural England were consulted regarding the Biosphere Reserve designation and noted no objection. However, they advised “... works should avoid as far as possible the over-Wintering bird season and avoid high tides.”, as per communications with the applicant on 19 October 2023.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team