



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr Robert Birt
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Our ref: 1716u
Your ref: 1607233

25 January 2024

Dear Mr Birt,

**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: CALDY PART 4 - CEFNCALANOG & CURNIA

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:

- Uprate approximately 2,525 metres of an existing 2 wire 11 kV overhead line to 3 wires
- Install 1 additional wood pole support

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 Shropshire 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:
 - Shropshire Hills National Landscape
 - A Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with Rhos Fiddle SSSI
4. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was conducted by Pearce Environment on behalf of the Applicant in December 2022 (document reference: 021222.PEA). The PEA details a range of mitigation measures, for example, conducting vegetation clearance outside of bird breeding season and adhering to sensitive site clearance methodology.
5. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 22 February 2023 (planning reference: 23/00198/OHL). They suggested “... the proposed works will not make the line significantly more prominent or have any long-term significant environmental impacts. Therefore, it is not considered that an EIA would be required, and Shropshire Council offer no objection to the proposed development, subject to Ecology conditions.”.

The LPA’s Ecology department proposed two conditions: the first regarding the presence of an Ecological Clerk of Works onsite for the purpose of a Bat Pre-commencement check. The second condition was regarding working in accordance with the method statement as per Section 3 of the PEA conducted by Pearce Environment.

6. Natural England were consulted regarding the SSSI IRZ and agreed that, “... there won’t be any significant impacts on designated sites as

a result of this proposal.”, as per communications with the applicant on 6 December 2023.

Yours sincerely,

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