



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1812u
Your ref: 4584587

26 January 2024

Dear Mr Stone,

**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: Lawdeshayne Farm

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 2km (26 spans) of existing 11kV overhead line to 3-phase.
- Replace 19 poles to accommodate additional weight of conductor and due to age/condition.
- Divert 1 span of existing 11kV overhead line, install 2 new poles and 3 new stays – 1 new pole installed due to diversion, 1 to allow a new pole-mounted transformer to be installed.

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 (South West) PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of East Devon District Council (“the LPA”). 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 the East Devon National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Bolshayne Fen SSSI which is approximately 1.1km from the proposed development.
4. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and concluded that, due to its limited scale, the proposed development would not result in any material increase in impact over that of the existing overhead lines on either the designated landscape, the setting of designated heritage assets or the amenity of nearby occupiers.
5. The Applicant consulted the East Devon National Landscape unit which raised no objection to the proposed development in communications on 14 November 2023.
6. The applicant consulted with Natural England regarding the SSSI IRZ, Natural England had no comments on the proposed development as per communications on 28 November 2023 (National England reference: 457323).
7. The proposed development is a modification to existing infrastructure which is likely to have minimal visual impact on the National Landscape in which it is situated.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
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