



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1787u
Your ref: CW51357

15 January 2024

Dear Mrs Lewis,

**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: Plasdwr Housing Development

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:

- Remove 6 x existing 132kV towers and associated overhead conductors.
- Install 2 x new 132kV towers at either end of a new 1.5km underground cable.

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 Wales) PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Cardiff 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 132 kilovolts and therefore requires a mandatory screening.
3. The proposed development does not fall within any sensitive areas.
4. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and had no objection. The LPA concluded that the likely effects of the proposed development are unlikely to be significant enough to warrant EIA.
5. The Applicant commissioned two Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEA) carried out in November 2022 (ref: C219/Radyr/D1/V1) and December 2022 (ref: C219/Radyr/D2/V1) by Sturgess Ecology to make an assessment on the two new tower locations and the underground cable route. The reports did not identify ecological concerns at the proposed tower locations and outlined a number of recommendations to be followed by the Applicant.
6. Cadw were consulted and confirmed they had no comments to make on the proposed development in communications on 6 February 2023.
7. The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust were consulted and, in communications on 28 June 2023 (ref: CAR0741/JBHD), requested an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation during the proposed development due to potential archaeological deposits.



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8. Natural Resources Wales were consulted and raised concerns in communications on 17 July 2023 (ref: CAS-220675-R8J8) regarding potential impact to bats as a result of the proposed development as identified in the November 2022 PEA. The split tree identified with potential for roosting bats is approximately 100 metres from the proposed eastern tower – if the proposed development is likely to impact on this habitat, the Applicant shall follow the advice outlined by Natural Resources Wales.
9. Natural Resources Wales raised concerns regarding the impact on Great Crested Newts as a result of the installation of the underground cable. This work is not consented under Section 37 of the 1989 Electricity Act and has not been considered.

Yours sincerely,

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