



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr Robert Birt
National Grid Electricity Distribution (West Midlands) Plc
Eudon Mill
Eudon Grange
Bridgnorth
WV16 6AJ

Energy Infrastructure Planning
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email: S37consents
@energysecurity.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 1705u
Your ref: 4116545

11 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: TOP BUILDINGS KEMPTON LYDBURY NORTH SY7 0JF

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 1130 metres of an existing 2 wire 11 kV overhead line to 3 wires

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 several designated sensitive areas:
 - Shropshire Hills National Landscape
 - A Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the River Teme SSSI
4. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was conducted by Pearce Environment on behalf of the Applicant in March 2022 (document reference: 130322.PEA). The PEA details a range of mitigation measures, for example conducting works outside of bird breeding season and seeking the advice of an ecologist in the occurrence reptiles are encountered during works.
5. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted an objection to the development on 6 April 2022 (planning reference: 22/00743/OHL) due to insufficient information to determine whether an EIA would be required.
6. Following the submission of the PEA to the LPA, the LPA notified the applicant via email correspondence on 6 February 2023 that an EIA was not required. The LPA also recommended that the applicant should follow a general site informative for wildlife protection detailing mitigations such as appropriate methods of vegetation clearance.
7. Natural England was consulted via email regarding the SSSI IRZ and responded on 6 December 2023, suggesting “... there won’t be any significant impacts on designated sites as a result of this proposal.”.

Yours sincerely,

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