



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Nigel Merrifield
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Energy Infrastructure Planning

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Our ref: 1848u
Your ref: W29toW35SpurW30B

11 April 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: 3RD WIRE UPGRADE W29 TO W35 INCLUDING SPUR
TO W30B**

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 800 metres of existing 11kV overhead line to 3-phase

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 Torridge 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
4. The applicant consulted with Natural England regarding the Biosphere Reserve designation. On 31 January 2024, Natural England responded with no comments regarding the development.
5. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 14 February 2024 (planning reference: GE/0036/2024).

Yours sincerely,

John Wheadon
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team