



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1849u
Your ref: W38W54WK17NM

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 MOORTOWN NORTH DEVON

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 5000 metres of existing 11kV overhead line to 3-phase
- Replace 58 poles

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 30 January 2024, Natural England responded with no comments regarding to the development.
5. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 8 February 2024 (planning reference: GE/0034/2024).

Yours sincerely,

John Wheadon

Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team