



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Nigel Merrifield  
National Grid Electricity Distribution (South West) Plc  
Victoria Road  
Barnstaple  
North Devon  
EX32 8PR

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

**Email:** S37consents  
@energysecurity.gov.uk  
**Website:** [www.gov.uk/desnz](http://www.gov.uk/desnz)

Our ref: 1851u  
Your ref: W18toWC4NM

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 TINKERS CROSS HIGHER  
PUNCHARDON**

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 315 metres of existing 11kV overhead line to 3-phase
- Replace five 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
  - A Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Popehouse Moor SSSI
4. The applicant consulted with Natural England regarding the Biosphere Reserve and SSSI IRZ designation. On 29 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 8 February 2024 (planning reference: GE/0028/2024).

Yours sincerely,

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