



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr Tom Watson
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Energy Infrastructure Planning

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Our ref: 1824u
Your ref: Roughground 3rd Wire Scheme 4732829 TW

04 March 2024

Dear Mr Watson,

**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: ROUGHGROUND 3RD WIRE SCHEME 4732829 TW

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:

- Install a third wire in an existing 11 kV 1600 metre line;
- Install a new lazy leg pole to upgrade a transformer to three phase



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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 Cornwall 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:
 - Cornwall National Landscape
 - Bodmin Moors Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI)
4. GE Consulting completed an ecological survey on behalf of the applicant in September 2023 (reference: 2122-NG-CB). The survey noted a variety of mitigations for example, having an ecologist conduct pre-works checks for the presence of Marsh Fritillary larval webs on Devil’s Bit Scabious.
5. Natural England (NE) was consulted via email regarding the SSSI and responded on 2 November 2023, noting "Natural England consider that there is potential for damage to notified SSSI habitats as a result of the use of heavy machinery.". The applicant responded to NE on 23 November 2023, stating that a small Kubota vehicle could be used. NE advised on 1 December 2023, "... using a small Kubota to deliver materials to the poles still has potential to negatively impact the Marsh Fritillary butterfly and would need to be done following the appropriate ecological measures, e.g. a competent ecologist providing a watching brief and marking out a route through the site which avoids any potential Marsh Fritillary habitat/breeding areas.". The applicant confirmed with NE on 4 December 2023 that they would have an ecologist to carry out the works advised by NE.
6. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 5 January 2024 (planning reference: PA23/09688).
7. Secretary of State requested for the applicant to gain formal assent from NE prior to commencing the development. The applicant applied



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

for the assent, which was granted on 21 February 2024 for the duration
of 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025 (reference: 1502240810JC).

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
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Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team