



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1667u  
Your ref: CO MW91804 Llandrinio Sarnau Phase 1

7 March 2024

Dear Mrs Duffy,

**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: LLANDRINIO SARNAU PHASE 1**

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:

- Rebuild an existing 11kV 8800 metre overhead line



## 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 SP Energy Networks (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Powys County 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:
  - Montgomery Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
  - Offa’s Dyke Scheduled Monument
4. In March 2017, an Ecology Report was produced on behalf of the applicant by ADAS (Document Reference: EcoCheck Report: Llandrino - Sarnau 11KV rebuild). The applicant submitted the Ecology Report to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for the purpose of attaining assent and their views on the development via email correspondence in April 2020. NRW responded by asking for further details on their methodology and advised that the applicant undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to ensure no likely significant effect on the SAC feature.
5. In July 2022, the applicant submitted their methodology to NRW. NRW in their response, requested for an amended method statement accounting for biosecurity measures and pollution prevention measures. Furthermore, NRW proposed that assent would need to be attained for the purpose of conducting works on pole 195 (located on the bank of Montgomery Canal SSSI and SAC). Assent would be granted on submission of the amended method statement and an HRA.
6. In August 2022, the applicant emailed NRW an amended method statement (Document Reference: Replacing Conductors across a River MR101 03) and HRA (Document Reference: Habitats Regulations Assessment 2022). The HRA concluded that “... there



## Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

would be no adverse effects upon the integrity of the European site either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.”. In addition to submitting the amended method statement and HRA, the applicant stated that the development will oversail Montgomery Canal SSSI and SAC. NRW replied, “... formal SSSI Assent may not be necessary after all, as the designated boundary ends at the water’s edge on the non-towpath bank of the canal. Therefore, please accept this email as confirmation that NRW are happy for this work to proceed as planned.”.

7. In August 2017 the applicant consulted CADW and submitted a method statement regarding the development works near Offa’s Dyke Scheduled Monument. CADW responded in September 2017, requesting the following measures to be included in the document: an exclusion zone in the scheduled area to be marked out with a barrier; assurance that no plant or machinery will cross Offa’s Dyke; the designated area is marked on all plans for the proposed works; and that all personnel working on this project should be informed of the location of the scheduled monument.
8. In November 2022, the applicant asked CADW if Scheduled Monument consent was required and stated that the development will oversail the Scheduled Monument. CADW responded that “Scheduled Monument Consent will not be required but the method statement needs to be updated in accordance with your e-mail of the 19 September 2017.”.
9. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 3 November 2022 (Document Reference: 22/1564/DECC). They suggested, “... the impacts of the development are not likely to be significant in terms of the scope of the EIA Regulations”.
10. In September 2023, Secretary of State requested an updated Ecology Report from the applicant to ensure her decision was based on the most current information available. The applicant submitted the updated report produced by ADAS in February 2024 (Document Reference: MW91804 - Proposed 11 kV electricity overhead wood-pole line rebuild between Llandrino and Sarnau). The report contained mitigations such as, producing a badger survey and having an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) to supervise any vegetation clearance works and carry out fingertip searches for Great Crested Newt and other amphibians.
11. In March 2024, Secretary of State requested the applicant to submit the amended method statement for review and confirm CADW’s recommendations were followed. Secretary of State noted that CADW’s advice was followed within the amended method statement



Department for  
Energy Security  
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(Document References: VCL-WI-09-17 - Offa's Dyke WI1 and VCL-WI-09-17 - Offa's Dyke WI2).

Yours sincerely,

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Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team