



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1822u
Your ref: 4584598NGS

7 March 2024

Dear Mr Shackson,

**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: Bradworthy Sewage Works Upgrade

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 3km of existing 11kV overhead line to 3-phase and install 1 x new pole to support upgraded pole-mounted transformer



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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 (South West) PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Torrington District Council (“the LPA”). 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 the UNSECO North Devon Biosphere Reserve and within an Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Bradworthy Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Culm Grasslands Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
4. The proposed development is located more than 1km away from the nearest SSSI/SAC.
5. Natural England were consulted regarding the proposed development and confirmed in communications on 15 December 2023 that they had no comment to make (Natural England reference: 459910).
6. The LPA had no objection to the proposed development and confirmed they do not consider the proposed development to be an EIA development.
7. The Applicant confirmed that no vegetation clearance will be necessary and pre-existing access routes will be used during the proposed development.
8. The proposed development is a modification to existing infrastructure which is likely to have minimal impact on the Biosphere Reserve in which it is situated.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team