



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr Jonathan M O'Hara
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Our ref: 1839u
Your ref: GLOS/41/SPRINGBARNNS4777849

27 March 2024

Dear Mr O'Hara,

**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: SPRING BARNNS 4777849

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 86 metre 11 kV overhead line



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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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of South Gloucestershire 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:
 - Cotswolds National Landscape
 - A Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the St Catherine’s Valley SSSI
4. Due to the designations, GE Consulting produced an ecology survey (document reference: 2149-NG-VB) on behalf of the applicant in November 2023. The document included mitigations such as vegetation clearance will be undertaken outside of bird breeding season and spill mats will be used to prevent ground contamination.
5. Natural England was consulted via email regarding the National Landscape and SSSI IRZ designations and responded on 26 November 2023, noting there was no objection to the development.
6. The LPA noted no objection to the development on 1 February 2024 (planning reference: ENQ23/0669) and suggested further consultation was not necessary due to “...the minor scale of the works and limited impact caused by adding a third conductor.”.

Yours sincerely,

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