



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr Nigel Merrifield
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Our ref: 1821u
Your ref: 4724664 NM

27 March 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 LONG MOOR COMBE MARTIN

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:

- Add a third wire to an existing 11kV 1600 metre 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 North Devon 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:
 - North Devon Biosphere Reserve.
 - North Devon Coast National Landscape.
 - A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Arlington SSSI.
4. The applicant consulted with Natural England regarding the Biosphere Reserve designation. On 15 December 2023, Natural England responded with no comments regarding the development.
5. LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 3 January 2024 (document reference: 77973). They considered, “the addition of one more overhead wire is unlikely to cause any significant additional visual impact.”.

Yours sincerely,

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