



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Tom Watson  
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Our ref: 1823u  
Your ref: 4060883 TW

13 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: Cargreen Link Line**

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 2km of existing 11kV overhead line to 3-phase and replace 7 x poles



## 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 (South West) PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Cornwall 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 Tamar Valley National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and within an Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Tamar – Tavy Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Plymouth Sound & Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and the Tamar Estuaries Complex Special Protection Area (SPA).
4. The proposed development is within 200 metres of the SSSI/SAC/SPA at its nearest approach.
5. The Tamar Valley National Landscape Unit were consulted and confirmed in communications on 5 December 2023 that they would be unlikely to object to the proposed development.
6. 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: 459643).
7. The LPA had no objection to the proposed development and confirmed they do not consider the proposed development to be an EIA development.
8. The Applicant commissioned Devon & Cornwall Ecology to carry out an ecological appraisal. A survey was conducted on 4 January 2024 and the subsequent Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report was issued on 25 January 2024 (reference: DCE1645) – the report concluded that the habitats affected by the proposed development are common and widespread and, as such, the disturbance caused by the development will not be considered to cause a significant ecological impact.
9. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report included a number of simple recommendations to minimise the risk of disturbance to protected species within the area and to the nearby SSSI/SAC/SPA.



Department for  
Energy Security  
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These recommendations shall be followed by the Applicant during the proposed development.

10. The proposed development is a modification to existing infrastructure which is likely to have minimal impact on the National Landscape in which it is situated.

Yours sincerely,

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