



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1825u
Your ref: E113837

21 March 2024

Dear Mr Maloney,

**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: Llyn Gwynant Campsite Cell Site supply

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 6 spans (approximately 380 metres) or existing 11kV overhead line.
- Install 1 x free standing H-pole and 1 x free standing pole, each with a pole mounted substation. Lay approximately 455 metres of underground cable to connect existing line to free-standing poles.
- Install 1 span (approximately 25 metres) of low voltage 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 SP Manweb PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park Authority (“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 Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park, Eryri & Coedydd Nant Gwynant Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Meirionnydd Oakwoods & Bat Sites Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
4. The proposed development falls within 385 metres of the Eryri SAC.
5. An ecological site survey was undertaken on the 1 February 2023, and the subsequent Ecological Appraisal report was issued by Rachel Hacking Ecology in May 2023.
6. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) was issued by Rachel Hacking Ecology in May 2023 – this plan was based on the recommendations outlined in the Ecological Appraisal report. The CEMP outlines the mitigation measures that will be implemented by the Applicant during the proposed development such that adverse impacts on biodiversity are avoided.
7. Natural Resources Wales were consulted, and on 24 May 2023 issued assent to carry out the proposed development (Assent ref no: A003112/1). This assent is conditional, based on the Applicant adhering to the mitigation measures outlined in the CEMP, and expires on 30 September 2024.
8. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was issued by Rachel Hacking Ecology on 14 June 2023. The HRA concluded that as there will be no loss or degradation of woodland habitat/individual trees, or any requirement for night working/artificial lighting, during the proposed development there will be no likely significant effect on the Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC. Although no works will be carried out within the Eryri SAC, the HRA concluded that there are potential likely significant effects on this SAC as excavation works will be carried out



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whilst installing a pole in close proximity to a stream that flows into Llyn Gwynant. The stream has a functional link to Oligotrophic Standing Water and there is potential for an impact on the functional link and water quality.

9. Due to the likely significant effect on the Eryri SAC, an Appropriate Assessment was carried out by Rachel Hacking Ecology. This outlined preventative measures to be adhered to whilst working alongside the stream which flows into Llyn Gwynant – with these mitigation measures in place, the proposed development will not have a significant effect on the water quality within the Eryri SAC. The mitigation measures outlined within the appropriate assessment are also included within the CEMP.
10. The LPA had no objection to the proposed development.
11. The LPA carried out a consultation with the Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service (GAPS) on 3 July 2023 (reference: 0703tf/D2266.01) which determined that there is potential for impact on the historic environment as the site falls within a landscape of both known, and potential for yet unidentified, archaeological settlement. GAPS recommended archaeological mitigation which the Applicant confirmed they would adhere to in communications on 11 March 2024.

Yours sincerely,

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