



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Alison Martyr-Icke  
National Grid Electricity Distribution (West Midlands) PLC  
Saw Mills End  
Gloucester  
GL4 3BH

**Energy Infrastructure Planning**

3-8 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2JP

**Email:**

S37consents@energysecurity.gov.uk

**Website:** [www.gov.uk/desnz](http://www.gov.uk/desnz)

Our ref: 1856u  
Your ref: Tocknells lock

2 May 2024

Dear Mrs Martyr-Icke,

**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: Tocknells Lock**

**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 2,275 metres of existing 11kV overhead line to 3-phase.
- Replace 27 x existing poles for stout service poles and install 2 x new poles to reduce the line span length.



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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 (West Midlands) PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Stroud 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 Cotswolds National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and within the Costwold Commons & Beechwoods Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The proposed development passes within 50 metres of the Cotswold Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at its nearest approach.
5. The Applicant commissioned an ecological appraisal of the proposed development. A survey was conducted by GE Consulting Services (UK) Ltd on 26 September 2023 and the subsequent “Ecology Survey and Recommendations” report (“the Ecology Report”) was issued on 26 October 2023 (reference: 2096-NG-VB). The report determined no impacts are anticipated on the designated sites and that some scrub and woody vegetation would be necessary during the proposed development, but significant impacts are not anticipated due to the discrete and short duration of the works. Potential for protected species in the area was identified, but recommendations are outlined within the report to minimise any impact which shall be followed by the Applicant during the proposed development.
6. GE Consulting Services (UK) Ltd further confirmed in communications on 24 April 2024 that no impacts to the Cotswold Commons & Beechwoods SSSI.
7. The SAC is designated due to Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests; no works or access routes are to be taken through the SAC during the proposed development and the works will be conducted in line with Pollution Prevention Guidance as outlined in the Ecology Report. As such, no likely significant effect on the SAC is anticipated.



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8. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: S23/2277/OHL) and concluded that the proposed development will have no significant environmental effects having regard to its nature, size and location.
9. The Applicant consulted with Natural England who confirmed in communications on 11 December 2023 (Natural England reference: 459951) that they consider the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on designated sites and has no objection.
10. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and is likely to have minimal visual impact on the National Landscape in which it is situated.

Yours sincerely,

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