



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1870u
Your ref: Corby to Eaton Socon 132kv OHL

26 June 2024

Dear Mrs Helen Moore,

**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: CORBY TO EATON SOCON 132KV OHL

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:

- Rebuild approximately 1.2km of an existing 132 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 North Northamptonshire Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching her decision the Secretary of State particularly 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 132 kilovolts and is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area;
3. The proposed development falls within several designated sensitive areas:
 - Titchmarsh Local Nature Reserves
 - Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Ramsar Site
 - Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Site of Special Scientific Interest
 - Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI
 - Roman Timber Bridge Scheduled Monument
4. Due to the sensitive area designations, BSG Ecology produced an Ecology report in December 2023. The report identifies potentially significant ecology constraints and provides recommendations on how the Applicant should modify existing approaches to the works for the protection of the designated sensitive areas.
5. Wood Power Solutions produced a Construction Environmental Management Plan in December 2023 which identified environmental requirements to be followed during the development.
6. Dalcour Maclaren produced a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) in December 2023. The document identified that there could be potential significant effects but by following mitigations such as seasonal restrictions to avoid the bird breeding season, having ecological supervision throughout the works and using best practice construction methods to avoid risk of pollution from refuelling with spill kits being present, the development would not have any adverse effects on the SPA and Ramsar.



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7. Natural England was consulted via email on the RIAA and responded on 9 February 2024, raising no concerns.
8. Having carried out an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the project for the SPA and Ramsar in view of the site's conservation objectives, the Secretary of State agrees that, subject to the implementation of the identified mitigation, the proposed development will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA and Ramsar.
9. The Applicant consulted with the County Archaeologist regarding the Scheduled Monument designation. The County Archaeologist responded with concerns that the proposed access route will impact the Roman bridge Scheduled Monument in December 2023.
10. The LPA consulted with Historic England, who had no objections and noted "we have not identified any likely significant effect in terms of the historic environment" March 2024.
11. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development. Following this, the LPA consulted with Environment Agency, NNC Public Rights of Way, NNC Environmental Protection, NNC Ecology, Nature Space consultants and NNC Archaeology, to which no objections were received. The LPA noted no objection to the development on 4 March 2024 (planning reference: NE/24/00023/OHL).
12. Public Notices regarding the proposed development were posted in local newspapers from 14 March 2024 to 28 March 2024. No representations were received regarding the proposed development by the deadline of 18 April 2024.
13. Natural England was consulted via email regarding the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA, Ramsar site and SSSI and responded on 6 February 2024, granting assent to the development between 1 September and 31 October 2024.

Yours sincerely,

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