



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1888u
Your ref: 4968760 Wilmington Honiton AS

26th June 2024

Dear Mr Strachan,

**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: Wilmington Honiton

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 an existing part of an 11kV overhead line by installing an additional third wire approximately 205m long.
- Replace four existing poles.

Secretary of State considerations:



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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) (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of East Devon District Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his 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 Blackdown Hills National Landscape.
4. The proposed development falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone associated with Reeds Farm Pit SSSI.
5. The LPA produced a delegated report (reference: DC/ DELREP4) on 25th January 2024. The report concluded that the proposed development “would not result in any material increase in impact compared to that of the existing overheads on either the protected landscape, the setting of the designated heritage asset, the amenity of nearby residents, wildlife interests or in relation to flood risk.”
6. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development on 15th December 2023. The LPA responded on 26th January 2024 with no objections.
7. Natural England (NE) were consulted regarding SSSI IRZ designation. NE concluded that “the development is not close to or within a Habitats Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and had no comments to make on this consultation.” on 28th March 2024 via email (reference:470631).
8. An Ecological Impact Assessment was completed by RSK Hi-Line Limited on 15th March 2024. They concluded the following: “The proposals to install an additional cable to existing overhead power lines will have no discernible effect on the visual aspect of the landscape”. Due to the small scale of the proposals, they raised no concerns and concluded “there will be no direct or indirect impacts on the nearby nature conservation sites, the closest being an area of semi-improved marshy grassland (Umborne Brook OSWI) on the opposite side of the A35.”



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9. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and not likely to have a significant effect on the National Landscape in which it is located.

Yours sincerely,

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