



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1939u
Your ref: CW52243 Longmoor Solar 3559123

12th September 2024

Dear Miss Claire Nuttley,

**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: CW52243 Longmoor Solar 3559123

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:

- Dismantle an existing tower.
- Install two new 132kV towers with sealing end platforms and terminate downleads to supply a loop in connection.



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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 PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Melton Borough Council (“the LPA”). 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 132 kilovolts and therefore requires a mandatory screening.
3. The proposed development falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone associated with Muston Meadows SSSI.
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA. The LPA concluded, that “the works are not considered as an EIA development” and raised no objections on the Form B document dated 17th June 2024 (ref: 24/00486/ENQELC).
5. The Applicant consulted with Natural England (NE) on 17th April 2024. NE concluded their checks on 2nd May 2024, and had no comments to make on this consultation. (Ref: 473388).
6. An Ecological Appraisal was carried out 6th March 2024 by MCIEEM Consultant Ecologist (reference: R 941~0) on behalf of the applicant. The survey determined that the site is minimal in nature, surrounded by grassland and arable fields limited in ecological value due to low diversity of floral species present. However, the survey outlined a few recommendations which will mitigate any potential environmental risks.
7. Public Notices regarding the proposed development were posted in the local newspapers on 2nd & 9th May 2024. No representations were received regarding the proposed development by the deadline of 5th June 2024
8. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and not likely to have a significant effect on the Natural Landscape.



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Yours sincerely,

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