



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1928u  
Your ref: CW52213\_RyallLane\_3272099

26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Miss Bates

**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:**

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 a 132kV replacement tower with two new wood pole gantry where a short length of cable will be installed down to the bottom of the tower to serve as a point of connection for a new 49.9MW solar farm.



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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 Stroud 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 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 Frampton Pools SSSI.
4. The LPA were consulted on 5 October 2023. The LPA raised no objections.
5. The Archaeological team at Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) were consulted on 1 November 2023. GCC stated that a full programme of archaeological work is in progress for the related solar farm scheme and advised that “the proposed new tower will be just outside several of the agreed mitigation zones where archaeological remains from the late prehistoric/Romano-British and medieval periods are being protected”. The Applicant shall ensure a programme of archaeological work is agreed with GCC prior to the proposed development.
6. Natural England (NE) were consulted on 5 October 2023. NE concluded “that the development is not located within a Habitats Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or protected landscape and had no comments to make on the consultation”.
7. Avian Ecology Ltd carried out a survey on behalf of the applicant. An Ecologist issued technical notes dated 7 June 2024. The survey determined that “the current grassland habitat is still considered to be of relatively low ecological significance nor is it recognised as a priority habitat, or as a habitat of local significance”.
8. Public Notices regarding the proposed development were posted in the local newspaper on 25 October 2023. No representations were received regarding the proposed development by the deadline of 24 November 2023.



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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 landscape.

Yours sincerely,

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