



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Arthur Chandler  
National Grid Electricity Distribution PLC  
Venture Way  
Priorswood Industrial Estate  
Taunton  
TA2 8DE

**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: 1946u  
Your ref: 4415174 – Alfoxton Park House

10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Mr Chander,

**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: 4415174 - Alfoxton Park House**

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 1,400m of existing 11kV overhead line from two to three phase by installing a 3rd wire.



## Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

- Replacing 8 overhead line wood poles

### 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 Somerset 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 Quantock Hill National Landscapes.
4. The proposed development falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone associated with The Quantock SSSI.
5. The Applicant consulted the LPA and received a response on 30 January 2024. The LPA considered “the proposed development to be minor and would not materially affect the appearance of Quantock Hill National Landscape” and had no objections to raise.
6. The Applicant consulted the Quantock Hills National Landscape Team on 5 December 2023. They had no concerns with the proposal.
7. Natural England (NE) were consulted on 12 June 2024. 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.
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.

Yours sincerely,

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