



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Athur Chandler  
National Grid Electricity Distribution PLC  
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Our ref: 1952u  
Your ref: 4825252

10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Mr Chandler,

**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:

- Upgrading 1,150m of existing 11kV overhead line by adding a third wire to an existing 2 wire.
- Replacing 4 overhead line wood poles.



## Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

### 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 they responded on 19 April 2024. The LPA concluded their checks raising no objections.
6. The Applicant consulted the Quantock Hills National Landscape Team on 12 March 2024. They concluded their checks and had no comments to make.
7. The Applicant consulted Natural England (NE) on 17 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 on this consultation.”
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