



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2053u
Your ref: 43CG REFURB

4 February 2025

Dear Mrs Eddy,

**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: 43CG REFURB TREMORE - BORLASEVATH

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 8,819 metres of an existing 11 kV overhead line to three phase
- Replace 108 poles on a like for like basis



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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 Cornwall 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 Rosenannon Downs Registered Common Land, Rosenannon Bog and Downs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), River Camel Valley and Tributaries SSSI and River Camel Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
4. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and responded on 3 January 2024 with no objection, noting that the works do not require entry into SSSI.
5. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development on 22 January 2024 (planning reference: PA23/10043).
6. The Applicant consulted with the Cornwall Commons and Greens Registration Officer, who raised no objections on 9 February 2024.
7. The Applicant consulted with the Rights of Way team who requested a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order to be applied for prior to the work starting on 23 February 2024.
8. The Applicant produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in October 2024, which outlined the working method, potential risks to protected sites, and proposed mitigation measures.
9. An Ecological walkover survey was conducted at the proposed development site in September 2024 and the subsequent “Preliminary Ecological Appraisal” was issued on 20 October 2024 by Devon and Cornwall Ecology (reference: DCE1720). The survey identified habitats such as improved grassland, deciduous woodland, shrub, riverbank and hedgerows supporting species such as hazel dormice, widespread reptiles, water vole and nesting birds. The habitats also offer suitable opportunities for foraging and commuting bats. Several mitigation measures were recommended to minimise ecological impacts. Vegetation removal should take place outside of bird nesting and



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dormouse active periods, where not possible. An inspection of the riverbank should be undertaken 1-2 weeks prior to works commencing to check for water voles and otters. Additionally, a Construction Method Statement must be prepared and implemented, outlining methods to avoid impacts on the watercourse, protocols for safe storage of materials and chemicals, and detailed plans for construction access and timing of works.

10. The Applicant consulted with the Cornwall Wildlife Trust, who confirmed in communications on 4 November 2024 that they had no objection to the proposed development. They requested to be notified prior to the commencement of works.
11. Having considered the HRA completed by the Applicant, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no likely significant effects on any National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the limited works to be conducted within the SAC which consists of minor vegetation clearance.

Yours sincerely,

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