



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2061u
Your ref: 1644204

18th February 2025

Dear Mr Birt

**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: 1644204- Long Compton Interconnector

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 approximately 1310m of an existing 11kV overhead line from 2 wire to 3 wire.
- Installing a ground mounted transformer.
- Replacing 20 wood poles.



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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 Stratford on Avon District 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 to be installed above ground in a sensitive area.
3. The proposed development falls within Cotswold National Landscapes and an Impact Risk Zone.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA concluded their checks and were satisfied that the proposed line will not cause further harm to the visual amenity of the area, nor be out of keeping with the character of the area as well as the Cotswolds AONB. The LPA had no objections to make on the proposed development on 19 November 2024.
5. The Applicant consulted Cotswold National Landscape on 5 April 2024. Cotswold National Landscape responded via email on 13 April 2024 confirming that the proposed development is unlikely to significantly change the visual impacts and had no objections to make.
6. The Applicant consulted Natural England on 5 April 2024. Natural England concluded their checks, confirming that the development is not close to a Habitats Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or protected landscape and had no comments to make on the proposed development.
7. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was carried out on 20 January 2023 by Swift Ecology Ltd. The report determined that the overhead line upgrade mainly crosses open farmland (a mixture of arable and sheep or horse-grazed pasture), woodland and residential garden to the north of the village of Little Compton in Warwickshire. The assessment found that the proposed development is likely to adversely impact the Ecology of the site in the absence of mitigations, especially in relation to badger, nesting birds, great crested newts and reptiles. It is therefore recommended that the Applicant follows the recommendations outlined in the Ecological Appraisal to minimise the potential risks and impact on Wildlife and protected species.



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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