



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2064u
Your ref: 5191239

5 March 2025

Dear Miss Fry,

**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: COAST ROAD, BERROW

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 214 metres of an existing low voltage overhead line from 2 phase to 3 phase



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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 Somerset 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 the Berrow Dunes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development and considered that “it would have a minimal impact on the character of the area, SSSI and Nature Reserve” on 3 October 2024 (planning reference: 05/24/00009).
5. An Ecology Survey was carried out at the site of the proposed development on 7 November 2024 and the subsequent “Ecology Survey and Recommendations” was issued on 13 November 2024 by Growing Native (reference: 2665-NG-JH). The site is located within Berrow Dunes SSSI designated for its Coastal Sand Dunes and Broadleaf Woodland habitats of principle importance. The survey indicates that areas around the poles primarily consist of bramble scrub and ornamental hedging, providing suitable habitat for nesting birds, amphibians (including Great Crested Newts), reptiles and dormice. To minimise potential impacts on these species, any vegetation removal required to facilitate access or balance stays, should be avoided or minimised and must be supervised by an ecologist. If significant vegetation clearance is necessary, assent from Natural England may be required. A dormouse mitigation licence may be required if a significant amount of woody vegetation is removed, or evidence of dormice is found. Additionally, all works are to be undertaken in strict accordance with pollution prevention guidance.
6. The Applicant has not consulted Natural England, as the proposed development is deemed unlikely to disturb or harm special features of the SSSI.



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7. Considering the proposed mitigation measures and consultation with the LPA, the Secretary of State is satisfied that the development will have minimal impact on the integrity of the protected site.

Yours sincerely,

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