



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2089u
Your ref: GLOS/41/JOH/LAWSFM4882936

5 March 2025

Dear Mr O'Hara,

**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: GLOS/41/JOH/LAWSFM4882936

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 592 metres of an existing 2 wire 11 kV overhead line to 3 wires
- Replace four poles on a like for like basis
- Install an H Pole to support a 200kVa pole mounted transformer



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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 South Gloucestershire 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 Cotswolds National Landscape.
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA, which raised no objections to the development on 15 January 2025 (planning reference: P24/01958/OHL).
5. The Applicant consulted Natural England (NE), which responded with no comments on 29 August 2024 (reference: 485682).
6. An Ecological Walkover was conducted at the proposed development site on 14 May 2024. The subsequent “Ecology Survey and Recommendations” report was issued by GE Consulting on 21 November 2024 (reference: 2406-NG-VB). The survey found that the route consists of grazed grassland, hedgerows and a wide road verge. The hedgerows provide suitable habitats for nesting birds and have potential for Great Crested Newts; however, no evidence of protected species was observed during the walkover. GCN have been recorded over 1km away from the site. To mitigate any potential impact, any ponds within 250m of the site will be assessed, and groundworks near them will be supervised by a licenced ecologist. Vegetation removal is not required, but, if necessary, it should be minimised and conducted outside nesting and hibernation periods. If removal must occur during these times, a licensed ecologist will check for active birds and/or dormice beforehand.
7. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and is likely to have minimal visual impact on the National Landscape in which it is located.



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Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
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