



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2111u
Your ref: 5202298

5 March 2025

Dear Mr Watson,

**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: Hamatethy upgrade works

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 5 kilometres of existing 11kV overhead from single phase to 3-phase.
- Replace 27 poles on a like-for-like basis
- Install a new lazy leg pole next to existing pole 43JFC6 to support a new 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 (South West) PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Cornwall 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 River Camel Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the River Camel Valley & Tributaries and Bodmin Moor, North Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and the Cornwall National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding National Beauty).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: PA25/00338).
5. An ecology survey was conducted in November 2024 by GE Consulting Services (UK) Limited on behalf of the Applicant, and the subsequent “Ecology Survey and Recommendations” report was issued on 28 November 2024 (reference: 2685-NG-JH). The survey focussed on the 5 poles located within the River Camel SAC/SSSI and identified the presence of priority upland acid grassland and upland oakwood habitats as well as the potential for nesting birds, reptiles and hedgehog to be present. A number of recommendations to mitigate the limited impacts on protected species and habitats were outlined – these will be followed by the Applicant during the proposed development.
6. A shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment (sHRA) was completed in January 2025 by GE Consulting Services (UK) Limited on behalf of the applicant (reference: 2685-sHRA-CB).
7. The sHRA was submitted to Natural England, who concluded on 4 February 2025 that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on the SAC and raised no objection (reference: 500673).
8. Natural England issued assent on 3 March 2025 for the proposed development to be carried out within the River Camel Valley &



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Tributaries SSSI between 3 March 2025 and 30 September 2025 (reference: 2402251035MH).

9. The Applicant consulted with the Cornwall National Landscape Team, who concluded the modifications would not be unacceptably harmful to the local landscape and raised no objection as per communications on 22 January 2025.
10. Only a small section of the proposed development oversails the Bodmin Moor, North SSSI, no pole changes will be carried out within this SSSI and any vehicle access to the SSSI will be using existing roads. There are no likely significant effects on this SSSI as a result of the proposed development.
11. 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 situated.
12. Having considered the ecology survey and sHRA the Secretary of State considers there may be likely significant effects on a National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the potential for water pollution from oil/fuel spills during the proposed development. The Secretary of State has considered whether there could be an Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site. The risks will be mitigated by undertaking the works in strict accordance with pollution prevention guidance and a detailed method statement which will include, as a minimum, limiting vehicle access to a single pole at the outer edges of the SAC, ensuring no re-fuelling will be undertaken and no fuel, materials or vehicles will be stored within the SAC, and the use of spill mats to prevent ground contamination.
13. In light of the proposed mitigation, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site, and this is beyond all reasonable scientific doubt

Yours sincerely,

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