



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Ellie Fry  
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Our ref: 2074u  
Your ref: 4035511

19 May 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: Towens, Middlezoy**

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 ~775 metres of existing 11kV overhead line from two to three wires
- Erect 2 x new poles and 1 x stay wire to support an upgraded pole-mounted transformer



## Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

### 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 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 Greylake Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection and concluded that due to the size of the proposed development it would not constitute an EIA development (reference: 34/24/00011).
5. The Applicant applied for SSSI assent from Natural England in November 2021. Within this application, the Applicant outlined that all works will be limited to the southwest corner of the SSSI, excavations would be to a depth of approximately 1.5 metres, during excavation all arisings will be segregated and stored prior to backfilling and compaction, and mud mats will be placed ahead of the small tracked excavator to prevent damage to surface soils during access and egress.
6. Natural England issued assent on 4 November 2021 for the proposed development to be carried out between 5 November 2021 and 31 October 2022 (reference: 0610211122CA). This assent has expired, and as such the Applicant must give further written notice to Natural England before commencement of the proposed development. There have been no changes to the proposed development since the original assent was issued.

Yours sincerely,

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