



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Ellie Fry
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Our ref: 2235u
Your ref: 4719345

31 July 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: THIRD WIRING AT ADSCOMBE

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 570 metres of 11kV overhead line from single to three phase
- Replace five poles

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 Quantock Hills National Landscape.
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA, who raised no objections to the development and concluded that an EIA was not required, stating on 4 June 2025 that 'the upgrade of the existing infrastructure would have minimal impact on the character of the area' (planning reference: 40/25/00007).
5. 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.

Yours sincerely,

Anna-Maria Inglis
Consent Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team