



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr Arthur Chandler
National Grid Electricity Distribution (South West) PLC
Venture Way
Priorswood Industrial Estate
Taunton
TA2 8DE

Energy Infrastructure Planning

3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email: S37consents
@energysecurity.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 2307u
Your ref: 4522329 Porch Farm - V2

29 October 2025

Dear Mr Chandler,

**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: Porch Farm

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 900 metres of an existing 2 wire 11kV overhead line to 3 wires
- Replace 9 existing poles along the route
- Add 1 new pole next to 25JC10 to form a ‘H’ pole configuration to support an upgraded 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 East Devon District 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 the Blackdown Hills National Landscape.
4. Natural England was consulted and, in their response dated 08 August 2024, confirmed that they had no comments on the proposed development (reference: 484637).
5. The Blackdown Hills National Landscape team were consulted, and in their response dated 12 August 2024, raised no objections to the proposed development as the site is at the boundary of the designated site, partially residential and benefits from good tree cover.
6. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 16 September 2024 (planning reference: PL/1676/FUL)
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.

Yours sincerely,

Calum Haig
Consent Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team