Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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

Our ref: 2338u
Your ref: 5605311 - Howley Farm, Chard

16 December 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: 5605311 - HOWLEY FARM, CHARD

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:

- Add a third wire to an 11kV 70 metre overhead line

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 ("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 Blackdown Hills National Landscape.
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA, who raised no objections to the development on 8 October 2025 (planning reference: 25/02425/OSUC).
5. The Applicant consulted with the National Landscape unit, which responded on 1 October 2025, stating that they "do not foresee any concerns… in terms of effects on the natural beauty of the designated AONB".
6. 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