



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2386u
Your ref: 1900864

27 March 2026

Dear Mr Birt,

**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: Knowbury Bennetts End 11kV Recon

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:

- Reconductoring & upgrade an existing 11kV overhead line approximately 1,370m from single phase to three phase.



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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 PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Shropshire 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 is located within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA, which reviewed the proposed development and on 9 September 2025, raised no objections.
5. The Applicant consulted Natural England (NE) on 16 July 2025, which confirmed the development is within Shropshire Hills National Landscape. However, based on the information provided by the Applicant, NE is satisfied that there won't be any landscape issues and given the nature and scale of the proposal NE concluded with no objections on 28 July 2025.
6. An Ecology Survey was carried out on 5 August 2025 by GE Consulting Services (UK) Limited, followed by the preparation of an Ecology Survey & Recommendations report dated 13 October 2025. The survey assessed ecological constraints and potential impacts arising from the proposed development, and set out details of avoidance measures, seasonal controls and working methods to be embedded throughout the construction.
7. The site passes through a moderately sensitive ecological landscape comprising predominantly improved and semi-improved grassland, native hedgerows, traditional orchard habitat, woodland edges, small watercourses and ponds. The survey concluded that there were no significant ecological barriers to the proposed development, provided that the recommended mitigation measures, including avoidance measures, seasonal controls and ecological supervision are implemented.



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8. In the absence of mitigation, the proposed development is likely to adversely impact the Ecology of the site. It is therefore recommended that the Applicant implements all measures outlined in the Ecology Survey and Recommendation report (reference: 3035-NG-PP) to minimise the risk of impacts on wildlife and protected species.
9. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing infrastructure and is not likely to have a significant effect on the National Landscape in which it is located.

Yours sincerely,

Anna-Maria Inglis
Consent Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team