



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Wesley Gammond
National Grid Electricity Distribution (West Midlands) PLC
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Our ref: 2478u
Your ref: 5926488

13 May 2026

Dear Mr Gammond,

**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: OLD HOWLE HILL NURSERY

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:

- Install a free standing 11kV H-pole and associated 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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Herefordshire County 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 Wye Valley National Landscape.
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA, which raised no objection to the development and, on 31 March 2026 (planning reference: 260533), confirmed ‘it is not considered that the proposal would materially impact the character and scenic quality’, concluding that an EIA is not required.
5. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the Impact Risk Zone and, on 20 April 2026 confirmed they had no comments, stating ‘there are no landscape issues which, based on the information received, necessitate Natural England’s involvement.’
6. The Wye Valley National landscape Office was consulted and, on 6 May 2026, confirmed they had no objections. They advised that the proposed development is unlikely to result in ‘significant landscape or visual effects on the wider National Landscape’ due to the existing infrastructure and identified measures to reduce localised impacts through vegetation retention, discreet cabling, and the use of recessive colours.

Yours sincerely,

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