



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Brett Holdsworth
National Grid PLC
National Grid
Broad Quay House
Broad Quay
Bristol
BS1 4DJ

Energy Infrastructure Planning
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

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

Our ref: 2501u
Your ref: XM - Aberthaw - Cardiff East - Pyle 275kV OHL
Diversion

1 July 2026

Dear Mr Holdsworth,

**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: XM - ABERTHAW - CARDIFF EAST - PYLE 275KV
OHL DIVERSION**

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:

- Divert 444 metres of existing 275kV overhead line
- Install a new terminal tower



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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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Bridgend County Borough 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 275 kilovolts and therefore requires a mandatory screening.
3. The proposed development does not fall within any designated sensitive areas.
4. The Applicant produced an Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) Assessment in September 2025, which demonstrated that the proposed overhead line complies with the relevant exposure limits.
5. An ecological walkover survey was conducted at the site of the proposed development on 7 November 2025, and the subsequent Ecology Report was issued on 8 December 2025 (ref: 95/JA/1702001) by Jacobs UK Ltd. The survey found that the proposed works are located largely within the former Ford factory site, although the location of the proposed tower is within an area of semi-natural habitat. Suitable woodland and scrub habitat for badger, hazel dormouse and reptiles was identified; however, no badger setts were recorded within the survey area. Four trees with bat roost potential (PRF-I) were identified, will be retained, and remain unaffected by the works. To minimise potential impacts, construction will be undertaken in accordance with BS 42020:2013 *Biodiversity: Code of Practice for Planning and Development* and a Precautionary Working Method Statement. Mitigation measures include a pre-construction badger survey within one month of works commencing, a pre-works ecological walkover survey and Ecological Clerk of Works supervised vegetation clearance for hazel dormouse and reptiles. These measures will also benefit hedgehog, polecat, and common amphibian species. No significant ecological effects are anticipated, and any habitats temporarily disturbed during construction are expected to naturally reinstate following completion of the works.



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6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development and concluded that an EIA is not required on 6 February 2026 (planning reference: P/25/643/RES).
7. Public Notices regarding the proposed development were posted in the Glamorgan Gazette and London Gazette for two consecutive weeks from 26 February 2026. No representations were received.

Yours sincerely,

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