



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2531u
Your ref: CW52553 - AY Recon

15 July 2026

Dear Mrs Coad,

**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: CW52553 AY ROUTE OHL RECONDUCTORING

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:

- Reconductor 1965 metres of existing 132kV 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 Cornwall 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 132kV kilovolts and is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area;
3. The proposed development falls within Mid Cornwall Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Breney Common and Goss & Tregoss Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Goss Moor National Nature Reserve.
4. An ecological walkover was conducted at the site of the proposed development on 6 August 2025, and the subsequent “Ecology Survey and Recommendations” was issued on 25 February 2026 by GE Consulting (reference: 3066-NG-HS). The survey found that no rare plant species associated with the designated sites were recorded at either AY7 or AY8 tower location. The habitats surrounding towers AY7 and AY8 provide potential nesting opportunities for birds, suitable habitat for dormouse within trees and scrub, and potential reptile habitat within grassland and scrub understory. Devil’s-bit scabious, the foodplant of marsh fritillary, was recorded at the entrance to the AY7 access track in 2025, however marsh fritillary is considered highly unlikely to occur at either site due to absence of records in the area. For towers AY2 to AY6, existing tracks will be used, and no vegetation removal is necessary. A number of recommendations to mitigate the limited impacts on protected species and habitats were outlined, these will be followed by the Applicant during the proposed development.
5. AI Engineering produced a Method Statement in March 2026 setting out the proposed access arrangements and temporary trackway installation for towers AY7 and AY8. The document details the safe installation, use and removal of temporary trackway panels, together



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

associated environmental controls, risk assessments, and public safety measures.

6. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (the HRA) was completed in March 2026 by GE Consulting (reference: 3066-sHRA-BG)
7. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and on 23 April 2026 granted unconditional assent to the development from the period between 1 July 2026 and 31 August 2026 (reference: 1004261032NG).
8. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development on 20 May 2026 (planning reference: PA26/02725).
9. Public Notices regarding the proposed development were posted in local newspapers on 27 May 2026 & 3 June 2026. Zero representations were received regarding the proposed development by the deadline of 1 July 2026.
10. Having considered the HRA and Ecology Survey, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no likely significant effects on any National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the use of existing trackways, where vegetation has not regenerated sufficiently to qualify as heath, mire or bog habitat, the works are limited to July and August where ground conditions will be drier, the temporary trackway installation being unlikely to cause negligible impacts on underlying vegetation, and the SAC's recent assessment as being in unfavourable condition for its primary features.

Yours sincerely,

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