



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2552u
Your ref: 59CM12/SWT2225

15 July 2026

Dear Mr Morris,

**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: 33kV D pole replacement at Llwyn Jack

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:

- Replace two wooden poles forming part of an existing 90 metre 33kV overhead line



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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 Carmarthenshire 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 adjacent to Afon Tywi Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Afon Tywi / River Tywi Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
4. The applicant consulted Heneb, which confirmed on 23 January 2026 that there is low potential for direct impacts on archaeological features, as the poles will be erected within previously disturbed ground.
5. The Flood Risk Advisor at Natural Resources Wales was consulted and confirmed on 2 February 2026 that a Flood Risk Activity permit was not required for the proposed works.
6. An ecology survey was conducted at the site of the proposed development in February 2026, and the subsequent “Ecological Appraisal” was issued on 4 March 2026 by MPS Ecology. The survey identified scrub habitat suitable for nesting birds and high-quality foraging and commuting habitat for otters. Although no evidence of otters was recorded on site, their presence could not be ruled out. Pole A contained two woodpecker nest holes, which may provide potential roosting habitat for bats. The grassland, scrub and woodland habitats also have the potential to support hedgehog, polecat, brown hare and weasel. In addition, small stands of Japanese knotweed were recorded approximately 50m away from pole A. 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.
7. Alongside the Ecological Appraisal, MPS Ecology produced a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which outlined environmental protection measures which are to be implemented during the proposed development.



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8. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and on 6 May 2026 granted conditional assent to the development valid until 31 December 2026 (reference: A005677/1).
9. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development and concluded that an EIA was not required on 8 June 2026 (planning reference: PL/10861).
10. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (the HRA) was completed in July 2026 by MPS Ecology.
11. Having considered the HRA and Ecological Appraisal, 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 works being minor, temporary and spatially confined, with no works proposed within the river channel or on the bank face or bed. Standard best-practice pollution-prevention and precautionary species-protection measures will be implemented and secured through the CEMP.

Yours sincerely,

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