



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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Our ref: 1495U  
Your ref: ESH981

17 May 2022

Dear Mr Hall,

**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: ESH981 PERROTTS BROOK**

Screening decision for a proposed development to upgrade an existing 11kV overhead electricity line of approximately 273 metres from single phase to three phase. The proposed development will involve the removal of the existing electricity cables and the installation of new cables with the addition of a third electricity cable to the current layout of the overhead electricity line on land near Perrott's Brook, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 7BT (the “proposed works”).

The proposed works require Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and are subject to the 2017 Regulations.

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 Dalcour Maclaren Limited (“the Applicant”) on behalf of Southern Electric Power Distribution Plc in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed works and the views of the Cotswold District Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

- The proposed works do not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
- The proposed works fall under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area;



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- The proposed works are to replace electricity cables and add one extra cable to an already existing overhead line;
- The existing line and proposed works are within the Cotswolds Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), however due to the minor changes to the layout of the existing overhead electricity line, the application does not suggest that there will be any adverse effects to the landscape elements and character of the AONB;
- The proposed works are at approximately 3 kilometres from the closest statutory designated nature conservation site, the Barnsley Warren Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) however the Application suggests there is no likelihood of impacts arising from the proposed works to this site;
- The proposed works do not pass through any designated heritage assets. The closest grade II-listed building is at approximately 30 metres whilst there are two scheduled monuments within approximately 170 metres from the site. However, no harm is anticipated to arise from the proposed works to the heritage significance of these sites as the overhead line is already existing and the application does not include information to suggest that the proposed works may impact these sites;
- The Application includes information regarding an associated development which will involve the installation and undergrounding of a short section of a Wavecon Cable to connect a nearby property. The LPA's Archaeologist confirmed that the area of the proposed works is "a post-medieval system of water meadows and Bagendon Settlement or possible Oppidum, including dykes and monuments known or believed to be from the Iron Age". Whilst no potential archaeological impacts are anticipated to occur from the proposed works on the basis that no belowground works will be required (Gloucestershire County Council's email dated 19 April 2021), in relation to any other undergrounding works, the Applicant will be required to agree with the LPA, prior to the works commencing, any suitable mitigations which may include but not be limited to the implementation of an archaeological mitigation programme to ensure that any archaeological remains which may be disturbed are appropriately recorded and protected;
- The Application does not suggest there will be any cumulative adverse effects with other existing and approved developments given that the proposed works are to replace cables onto an existing overhead line and on the basis that suitable archaeological mitigations are implemented in relation to any belowground works in connection with the proposed works;
- The LPA was consulted, and their views are that as the proposed works are modest in nature and constitute replacements of existing lines, the proposed works would not harm the character or special qualities of the landscape and as such an EIA is not required. However, the LPA confirmed that the proposed works are in the vicinity of a group of trees designated by a Group Tree Preservation Order and suggested the inclusion of a planning condition to ensure that adequate measures to protect and avoid damage to trees are implemented (Form B dated 11 December 2021);
- Natural England was consulted, and they raised no concerns to the Application (email dated 24 March 2021, ref. 346994).

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, 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



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due to their nature, location and size. A copy of this letter has been sent to the LPA for information.

Yours sincerely,

*Francesco Marolda*  
Overhead Lines Manager  
Energy Infrastructure Planning