



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

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**Department for Business, Energy &  
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Our ref: 1527U  
Your ref: Ebble House - ETS046/ DH

21 September 2022

Dear Ms Hassett,

**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: EBBLE HOUSE STRATFORD TONY**

**LOCATION: SOUTH OF STRATFORD TONY ROAD, STRATFORD TONY, WILTSHIRE, SP5 4AT**

Screening decision for a proposed development (“the Development”) to:

- Upgrade an existing 240/415 volt overhead electricity line of approximately 84 metres from single phase to three phase. The proposed works will involve the removal of the existing 95ABC electricity cables and the installation of new 50ABC cables on the existing overhead electricity line.

The Development requires Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and is subject to the 2017 Regulations.

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“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 Southern Electric Power Distribution Plc (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the Development and the views of the Wiltshire Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The Development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA).
2. The Development falls 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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3. It is noted that the LPA has assessed the Development under the requirements of the 2017 Regulations and provided their screening views stating that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not recommended for the Development (Form B dated 14 February 2022, ref. PL/2022/00610).
4. The Development is located within the Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The AONB is designated for its ancient downland, herb-rich fen, river meadow and scattered deciduous woodland.
5. The Development is to replace the electricity cables of an existing overhead line. The Application does not mention that any ground works nor any vegetation clearance will be required as part of the Development.
6. Natural England was not consulted; however, the Applicant consulted the Cranborne Chase AONB Principal Landscape & Planning Officer which did not raise any concerns nor objected to the Development.
7. In view of the above, due to the minor changes to the layout of the existing overhead electricity line, the Secretary of State considers that, on the basis of the information available, it is unlikely that there will be any adverse effects to the landscape elements and character of the AONB arising from the Development.
8. It is noted that there are no statutory designated sites within 1 kilometre of the proposed works. The closest statutory designated site is the Throope Down Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at approximately 1.3 kilometres from the Development. However, the Application does not include any information suggesting that there is any likelihood of impacts to this site.
9. The Application does not indicate any potential effects on water or air quality and the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns.
10. With regards to production of waste associated with the Development, the Application does not include any information, however due to the minor nature of the works it is expected to be unlikely that there would be any significant effects, in addition the Applicant would be required to remove any redundant lines and apparatus replaced by the Development. The LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns on this matter.
11. The Application does not include information with regards to the use of natural resources, however, as there will be no ground works and no additional infrastructure being installed, it is considered that there would not be any loss of natural resources.
12. The Application does not include information with regards to potential flood risk or drainage problems however the Applicant will be required to make a flood risk assessment and agree any necessary measure with the LPA prior to the commencement of the Development should this be required. It is noted that the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns on this matter.
13. The Application does not include information on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for the Development. However as stated above, the Application does not suggest that any vegetation clearance will be required. Further the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns in relation to BNG.
14. The Application does not include information with regards to designated heritage assets, however it is noted that the Development does not pass through any of these and that there are no Scheduled Monuments located within 1 kilometre of the Development. Further the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns in relation to this matter.



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15. The Application does not include information with regards to potential impacts to archaeological remains, however as mentioned above the Development is to replace existing infrastructure and no ground works are expected to occur as part of the Development. Therefore, on the basis of the information available it appears reasonable to conclude that there would be no potential for buried archaeology and heritage assets to be present and impacted by the Development. In addition, the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns on this matter.
16. The Application does not include information with regards to listed buildings in the vicinity of the Development, however it is noted that the Manor House Grade II listed building is at approximately 80 metres from Development. Nevertheless, as the Development is to replace existing infrastructure it is considered unlikely that there would be any significant effects to the setting of the Grade II building. Further, the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns on this matter.
17. The Application does not include information with regards to potential impacts to residential receptors. However due to the temporary and limited nature of the construction works, it is considered unlikely that there would be any potential significant effects to the surrounding residential receptors. Also, it is noted that the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns on this matter.
18. Finally, the Application does not suggest that there are other known developments in the area. In addition, given the temporary and localised nature of the Development, the Secretary of State considers that it is unlikely that there would be any localised likely significant effects from the Development in combination with other existing or approved projects.

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, the Secretary of State concludes that the Development is **not an EIA** development under the 2017 Regulations and does not require a statutory EIA as it is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment due to its nature, location and size. A copy of this letter has been sent to the LPA for information.

*Francesco Marolda*

Overhead Lines Manager  
Energy Infrastructure Planning