



Department for
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& Industrial Strategy

Mr John O'Reilly
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Our ref: 1503U
Your ref: JO/SWAN E1L5

05 October 2022

Dear Mr O'Reilly,

**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: SWANAGE (SWAN) E1L5 11KV CIRCUIT - DURLSTON

LOCATION: DURLSTON, SWANAGE, DORSET, BH19 2JL

Screening decision for a proposed development to replace two electricity wooden poles supporting an 11 Kilovolt (KV) overhead electricity line of approximately 84 metres. The proposal will involve the removal of the existing wooden poles and the installation of new poles of similar structure and size in close proximity to the route of the existing overhead electricity line (the "Development").

The Development requires 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 Southern Electric Power Distribution Plc ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of the Dorset 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.



3. The Development is to replace 2 poles of similar structure and size along a route in close proximity to the path of the current overhead electricity line.
4. It is noted that the LPA has assessed the Development under the requirements of the 2017 Regulations and made a screening opinion stating that the Development is not likely to have significant environmental impacts and that an EIA is not required (letter dated 5 January 2022 and Form B dated 5 January 2022, ref. P/ESC/2021/05414).
5. The existing line and the Development are within the South Dorset Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (“the SSSI”), Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs Special Area of Conservation (“the SAC”), the Durlston National Nature Reserves (“the NNR”) and the Dorset Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (“the AONB”). The above sites are designated for a variety of habitats, including sea cliffs, coastal limestone downland, hay meadows, hedgerows, dry grassland, steppes, and woodland.
6. A Habitat Regulation Assessment (the “HRA”) is included in the Application. This provides details of avoidance and mitigation measures, and good practice measures. Such measures also include:
 - a. Minimum and sensitive removal of vegetation conducted under supervision.
 - b. Soil stripping methods and reinstatement measures.
 - c. Best practice pollution control measures including the use of spill kits and no refuelling on site.
 - d. Measures to minimise light disturbance and to reduce the risk of entrapment.
 - e. Vehicle access will be limited to existing tracks where possible.
 - f. No materials or vehicles will be stored on site other than on the designated route.
 - g. Construction timing outside the bird breeding season.
7. Natural England was consulted and issued assent under Section 28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), assent dated 1 December 2021, ref. NE 0511211242CA). Further the LPA in their screening opinion stated that *“Mitigation has been agreed including timings and access routes to minimise disturbance the features of the SAC/SSSI. Any residual impactson the SAC/SSSI will be short term, temporary, and reversible and therefore significant ecological impacts are not anticipated, for the purposes of EIA”*.
8. In view of the above factors the Secretary of State considers that any potential likely significant effects to protected species or the habitats of the SSSI and SAC will be mitigated subject to the implementation of the measures detailed in the Habitat Regulation Assessment report and as agreed with Natural England.
9. In relation to the AONB, the proposed Development is to replace poles of similar structure and size along a route in close proximity to the path of the current overhead electricity line and in the same position within the landscape. In addition, the screening opinion of the LPA on this matter states that *“the replacement of electricity poles will result in a short term, temporary, and reversible impact upon the local landscape, during construction, rather than affecting the special qualities of the Dorset AONB, within which the site lies. The new poles will be equivalent to*



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those being removed and will occupy the same position within the landscape. As such, it is considered unlikely that this will result in a significant landscape and visual impact for the purposes of EIA". Therefore, due to the temporary and minor nature of the construction works, the Development is not expected to result in any notable landscape visual effects on the special qualities of the AONB.

10. With regards to designated heritage assets, the Application does not suggest that the proposed Development will pass through any of these sites. The Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site (WHS) is located at approximately 90 metres east of the Development. However, based on the information available it is concluded that the proposed Development will not have an effect on any designated or non-designated heritage assets.
11. The Application does not indicate that there are any listed buildings in the vicinity of the Development and no concerns have been raised by the LPA either in the screening opinion nor in the Form B dated 5 January 2022.
12. The Dorset Council's archaeologist was consulted and raised no concerns about potential archaeological impacts arising from the proposed Development (email dated 8 December 2021).
13. Finally, the Application does not suggest that there are other known developments in the area. Therefore, 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.

Yours sincerely,

Francesco Marolda
Overhead Lines Manager
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