



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Mr John O'Reilly
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Energy Infrastructure Planning

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Our ref: 1512U – 1537U – 1547U

Your ref: JO/WINH E2L5 11kV Circuit 3; JO/WINH E2L5 11kV Circuit 1;
JO/WINH E2L5 11kV Circuit 2

5 December 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(S): WINFRITH HEATH E2L5 11KV CIRCUIT 3; WINFRITH HEATH E2L5 11KV
CIRCUIT; WINFRITH HEATH E2L5 11KV CIRCUIT 2.**

LOCATION (P19 and P21 – 1512U): Winfrith Newburgh, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 8LW

LOCATION (P23 – 1537U): East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QS

LOCATION (P5 – 1547U): West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5SA

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

- Replace two electricity wooden poles of 10 metres in height supporting an 11 kilovolt (kV) overhead electricity line of approximately 151 metres;
- Replace one electricity wooden pole of 12 metres in height supporting an 11 kilovolt (kV) of approximately 145 metres; and
- Replace one free standing transformer poles of 10 metres in height.

The development requires Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and are 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 ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the 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. 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 20 February 2022 and Form B dated 20 January 2022).
4. The Development is within the South Dorset Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Winfrith Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Lulworth Park & Lake South Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs Special Area of Conservation, the Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation, the Dorset Heathlands Special protection Area and Ramsar (together “the sites”), and the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (“the AONB”).
5. The sites are designated for a variety of habitats, including vegetated sea cliffs, coastal limestone downland, hay meadows, hedgerows, dry grassland, steppes, woodland and are notified to support aggregations of breeding and non-breeding birds, assemblage of invertebrates and reptiles.
6. Two Habitat Regulation Assessments (the “HRAs”) and an Assent Report are 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 three assents under Section 28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), assent dated 14 October 2021, ref. NE 1309211027EC for the works within the Winfrith Heath SSSI; dated 14 October 2021, ref. NE 1309211118EC for the works within the Lulworth Park & Lake SSSI; and assent dated 4 October 2021, ref. NE 1309211018EC for the works within the South Dorset Coast SSSI.
8. 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 European and National wildlife sites. Any residual impacts on the European and National wildlife sites will be short term, temporary, and reversible and therefore significant ecological impacts are not anticipated, for the purposes of EIA.”*



9. 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 sites will be mitigated subject to the implementation of the measures detailed in the Habitat Regulation Assessment reports and as agreed with Natural England.
10. 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 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.
11. With regards to designated heritage assets, the Application states that the replacement of P5 part the Development will take place within the Bindon Hill camp' Scheduled Monument. The Application confirms that Schedule Monument Consent from Historic England and approvals from the Dorset County Archaeologist will be sought prior to any works commencing. In addition, the Application confirms that competent archaeologists will be present on site and an archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during construction, the terms of which should be agreed with the LPA prior to the works commencing. Further, the screening opinion of the LPA on this matter states that *"The pole is located within the boundaries of the Radar Station to which access via a sealed road is available. The applicant intends to commission Wessex Archaeology to undertake the necessary submissions to Historic England ahead of the work and, to oversee the excavation if required. With these mitigation measures in places, significant impacts to the heritage assets are not anticipated, for the purposes of EIA."* Therefore, 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 provided that the measures agreed with Historic England and the LPA are implemented.
12. 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 20 January 2022.
13. The Dorset Council's archaeologist was consulted and raised no concerns about potential archaeological impacts arising from the proposed Development (email dated 21 September 2021).
14. 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.



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15. 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
Energy Infrastructure Planning