



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Mr John O'Reilly
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC
First Floor, New Forest Depot
Minstead
Lyndhurst
SO43 7PE

Energy Infrastructure Planning

Level 3, Victoria 1
1 Victoria Street,
London
SW1H 0ET

Email: S37consents@beis.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/beis

Our ref: 1515U and 1516U

Your ref: JO/WINH E7L5 11kV - LV Pole and JO/WINH E7L5 Holworth SSSI

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: JO/WINH E7L5 11KV - LV POLE and WINH E7L5 11KV CIRCUIT HOLWORTH SSSI

LOCATION: HOLWORTH, DORCHESTER, DORSET, DT2 8NJ

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

- Replace six electricity wooden poles of 10.5 metres in height supporting an 11 kilovolt (kV) overhead electricity line of approximately 450 metres; and
- Replace one electricity wooden pole of 9 metres in height supporting approximately a 240/415 volts of approximately 32 metres of low voltage (lv) overhead electricity line.

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:



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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 have 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 and screening decision dated 15 November 2021, ref P/ESC/2021/04713).
4. The Development is located within South Dorset Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and within the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Application states that the location is mainly made up of lowland calcareous and good quality semi-improved grassland. The above sites are also notified for supporting populations of nationally scarce butterfly species, invertebrates, and breeding birds.
5. The Application includes an Assent Request report, which details avoidance and mitigation measures and good practice measures. Such measures also include:
 - a. Works are to take place outside the bird breeding season Vehicle access through existing access routes where possible,
 - b. Construction timings tailored to ensure minimal disturbance to the site and to reduce the risk of entrapment,
 - c. No materials or vehicles will be stored on site other than on the designated route,
 - d. Measures to control the spread of invasive weeds,
 - e. Soil stripping methods, reinstatement measures, and
 - f. Best practice pollution control measures.
6. Natural England was consulted and issued assent under Section 28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), assent dated 8 November 2021, ref. NE 0311210948EC). Further, the screening opinion of the LPA states that *“Mitigation has been agreed including timings and access routes to minimise disturbance to the features of the SSSI. Any residual impacts on the SSSI will be short term, temporary, and reversible and therefore significant ecological impacts are not anticipated, for the purposes of EIA.”*
7. 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 will be mitigated subject to the implementation of the measures detailed in the accompanying report and as agreed with Natural England.
8. In relation to the AONB, the 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.

9. With regards to designated heritage assets, the Application does not suggest that the Development will pass through any of these sites. The Dorset and East Devon Coast World Heritage Site (WHS) is located at approximately 90 metres south of the Development. However, based on the information available it is concluded that the Development will not have an effect on any designated or non-designated heritage assets.
10. 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 15 November 2021.
11. The Dorset Council's archaeologist was consulted and raised no concerns about potential archaeological impacts arising from the Development (email dated 17 November 2021). In addition, as mentioned above the Development is to replace existing infrastructure. 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.
12. 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.
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
Energy Infrastructure Planning