



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

John O'Reilly  
SOUTHERN ELECTRIC POWER DISTRIBUTION PLC  
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: 1677u  
Your ref: BUTTS ASH E5L5 11KV CIRCUIT - NEW FOREST  
SSSI

5 July 2023

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:** BUTTS ASH E5L5 11KV CIRCUIT - NEW FOREST SSSI

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

- Replace six electrical wood poles to support an 11Kv overhead line

The proposed 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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of The New Forest National Park Authority (“the LPA”). In reaching his decision, the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
2. The proposed 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 located within the New Forest National Park which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Ramsar site, a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA).
4. Natural England (NE) was consulted and granted assent subject to the adherence of conditions as outlined in Document Reference: 1208221050EP. NE advises that provided the noted conditions are met, the development's operations should not cause significant damage to the site.
5. The LPA was consulted and considered the development would not cause significant adverse impact to the sensitive area. Furthermore, the archaeology department of the LPA was consulted and made no comments or objections regarding the development.

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

Yours sincerely,

Energy Infrastructure Planning