



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr 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: 1409U
Your ref: JO/MILA E6L5 Snails Lane

24 April 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: Mill Lane E6L5 River Avon SSSI LV Poles

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

- Replace eight wooden poles supporting a low voltage overhead line in the Avon Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest ("the SSSI"), the Avon Valley Special Protection Area ("the SPA"), the Avon Valley Ramsar site ("the Ramsar site") and the New Forest National Park ("the National Park").
- Replace approximately 300 metres of overhead electricity line in the SSSI.

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



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

development and the views of the New Forest National Park Authority (“the LPA”). In particular, 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 proposed development is to replace eight wooden poles and a section of low voltage overhead electricity line of similar size and structure along a route in close proximity to the existing overhead line.
4. The existing line and proposed development are located within the Avon Valley Ramsar Site, Avon Valley (Bickton to Christchurch) SSSI, Avon Valley SPA and the New Forest National Park. The line also runs close to, but in a different direction to an ancient woodland. The Secretary of State notes that the applicant supplied Natural England with a Habitat Impact Assessment and Natural England had granted assent for the work and is satisfied that the mitigation measures the Applicant has in place is not likely to cause any significant environmental impact to the area.

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