



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr John O'Reilly

Energy Infrastructure Planning

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

Email: S37consents@beis.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk

Our ref: 1564U, 1565U, 1566U and 1567U
Your ref: Wareham Town E1L5

21 June 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: WAREHAM TOWN E1L5 11KV CIRCUIT ARNE SSSI

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

- Replace 36 wooden poles supporting four overhead electricity lines in the Wareham area of Dorset.

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 Dorset Council ("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 fall under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area;

Sensitive areas and the reasons for their designations:

3. The proposed development is located within the Dorset Heathlands Ramsar site ("the Ramsar site"). Within this site there is also Stoborouogh and Creech Heaths Site of Special Scientific Interest ("the SSSI"), Arne Site of Special Scientific Interest ("Arne SSSI"), Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area ("the SPA"), Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham) & Studland Dunes Special Area of Conservation ("the SAC"). Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ("Dorset AONB"), Purbeck Heaths National Nature Reserve ("the NNR"), and Arne Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserve ("the RSPB Reserve") are also within the boundaries of the Ramsar site.
4. The sites are designated for the following reasons:
 - The Ramsar site - supporting good examples of wet heath, as well as supporting rare and scarce plant and invertebrate species;
 - The SAC - shifting dunes and both wet and dry heaths;
 - The SPA – known to have a number of different breeding and non-breeding species of birds;
 - The RSPB reserve – home to many rare birds, which is also covered by the SPA.
5. All four developments are located within the AONB. The proposed development is to replace the existing wooden poles supporting overhead electricity lines. The LPA have taken into consideration any proposed impacts on the AONB and their opinion is that there will be no negative impacts on the AONB.
6. The application includes details on the methodology of how the works are being carried out, including access routes for vehicles and storing equipment and soil during the works. The works are taking place between October and February, which is outside of the UK breeding season and will take place during a period of dry weather when there is less risk of damage to the local environment.

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,

John McKenna
Energy Infrastructure Planning