



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

John O'Reilly
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Our ref: 1603u
Your ref: BM/REHI E4L5

13 September 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: Redhill E4L5 11kV Circuit – Parley Common SSSI

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

- Replace 4 x wood electricity poles supporting an existing 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 PLC ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of the Dorset Council ("the LPA"). In particular, in reaching her decision, the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA).



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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 falls within the Parley Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), the Dorset Heathlands Ramsar Site and Special Protection Area, and the Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation.
4. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and concluded that there would be no significant effects on the environment, and as the proposed development involves the replacement of existing poles, to the same specification, in the same location, they will not have an adverse visual impact, or any other notable impact, on the landscape qualities of the sensitive areas in which they are located.
5. The Application includes an Ecological Constraints Report carried out by ADAS (document reference: BRT69105-1225(00)). This report contains details of a site survey carried out in July 2023 and outlines recommendations to mitigate the ecological risks associated with the proposed development.
6. A Method Statement and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) were submitted by the Applicant to Natural England. Natural England subsequently granted assent for the proposed development for the period between 1 October 2023 and 31 March 2024 (Natural England reference: 1406231056RM).

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
Head of Network Consents
Energy Infrastructure Planning