



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Greg Moore
Southern Electric Power Distribution
Via email

Energy Infrastructure Planning
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Our ref: 1652U
Your ref: SEB/33H/1965

20 September 2023

Dear Mr Moore,

**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: GM/33NI 522007 MANNINGTON - FERNDOWN

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

- Replace 7 wooden poles supporting a 33 kilovolt (kv) overhead electricity line for a total length of 2200 meters.

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 East Dorset District Council (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:



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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 located within several sensitive areas, including a National Nature Reserve, Ramsar site, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. The applicant provided Natural England with a Habitat Regulation Assessment, ecological survey and method statement detailing how the works will be carried out. The environmental survey noted that some of the existing poles were suitable to house local wildlife. However, the applicant is due to carry out these works outside of breeding season, which mitigates the possibility of anything nesting in the poles. Additionally, the applicant informed the Department that a survey of the line will take place immediately prior to any works starting.

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 Planning team
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team