



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1739u  
Your ref: EYZ377

20 October 2023

Dear Miss Pain,

**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: Higher Barn, DT11 8SU**

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

- Upgrade ~1.9km of existing 11kV overhead line from 2-phase to 3-phase

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).
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 Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) related to several nearby SSSIs – the nearest of which, Handcocks Bottom SSSI, is approximately 2km away.
4. The proposed development also runs adjacent to the Enclosure S of Pimperne Down Scheduled Monument, although no works are to be carried out within the Scheduled Monument.
5. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and had no objection. The LPA considered that as the new wire will be positioned between two existing wires on existing poles along a highway, there will be no additional visual impact to the AONB as a result of the proposed development. The LPA concluded that the proposed development is not likely to have significant environmental impacts.
6. Natural England were consulted regarding the SSSI IRZ and had no comment to make as per communications on 27 April 2023 (Natural England reference: 428753).
7. Historic England were consulted regarding the Scheduled Monument and agreed with the Applicant that the proposed development would not impact on the scheduled area.
8. The proposed development is a modification to existing infrastructure which is likely to have minimal visual impact on the AONB in which it is situated.

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  
Energy Infrastructure Planning