



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Sam Maidens
Walton Road
Portsmouth
PO6 1UJ

Energy Infrastructure Planning

3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email: S37consents@beis.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 1579u
Your ref: Milford E6L5

15 November 2023

Dear Mr Maidens,

**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: Milford E6L5

Decision:

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.

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

- Replace 3 x poles and carry out maintenance and stay replacement on a fourth pole on an existing 11kV overhead line.



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Secretary of State considerations:

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 Waverley Borough Council (“the LPA”). 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 several designated sensitive areas:
 - Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
 - Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Commons Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
4. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and had no objections provided assent was issued by Natural England.
5. The Applicant sanctioned an ecological survey which was carried out by ADAS on 12 July 2023, and subsequently an Ecological Constraints Report was issued in August 2023 (reference: BRT69105-1215(00). The report outlined several recommendations and concluded that in order to avoid likely significant effects, the proposed development must be carried out between September 2023 and February 2024.
6. The Applicant sanctioned a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report, which was carried out by ADAS and issued in August 2023 (reference: BRT69105-1215(00) Rev.0). This report included details of the methodology, potential impacts and mitigations required during the proposed development. The report concluded that, provided the outlined mitigations are implemented in full, the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on the sensitive areas in which it is situated.
7. Natural England were consulted and provided with details of the Ecological Constraints and HRA Screening reports. Subsequently, Natural England granted assent on the 26 September 2023 for the proposed development to be carry out in the period between 12



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

October 2023 and 28 February 2024 (Natural England reference: 1409231317EA).

8. The proposed development is a like-for-like change out of existing infrastructure and is not likely to have a significant adverse visual impact on the AONB in which it is situated.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team