



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Rebecca Harris
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC
New Forest Depot
Minstead
Lyndhurst
SO43 7PE

Energy Infrastructure Planning
Level 3, Victoria 1
1 Victoria Street,
London
SW1H 0ET

Email: S37consents@beis.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/beis

Our ref: 1594U
Your ref: EUL942

29 November 2022

Dear Ms Harris,

**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: UNDERSHORE, LYMINGTON

LOCATION: LAND OFF B3054, WALHAMPTON, LYMINGTON, SO41 5QA

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

- Replace one electricity wood pole of 10 metres in height supporting a 240/415 volts overhead electricity line. The proposal will involve the removal of the existing wooden pole and the installation of a new pole of similar structure and size in the same position of the existing pole.

The Development requires Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and is subject to the 2017 Regulations.

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“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 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the Development and the views of the New Forest National Park Authority (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

1. The Development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
2. The Development falls under Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations as the electricity line is to be installed above ground in a sensitive area.
3. It is noted that the LPA has assessed the Development under the requirements of the 2017 Regulations and made a screening opinion stating that the Development is not likely to have significant environmental impacts and that EIA is not required (letter dated 7 September 2022, ref. 22/00643).
4. The existing pole and the Development are within the New Forest National Park (“the National Park”), the Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar (“the Ramsar”), the Lymington River Reedbeds Site of Special Scientific Interest (“the SSSI”) and Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (“the SPA”).
5. The above sites are notified for a variety of wetlands habitats supporting an important assemblage of rare plants and invertebrates as well as a variety of breeding birds and internationally important aggregations of wintering birds.
6. The Application includes a Habitat Regulation Assessment report, which details avoidance and mitigation measures and good practice measures. Such measures also include:
 - a. No vegetation clearance to occur on site and vegetation searches to be undertaken by a competent person to ensure breeding birds are not present,
 - b. Vehicle access through existing access routes where possible,
 - c. Construction timings tailored to ensure minimal disturbance to the site and to reduce the risk of entrapment,
 - d. No materials or vehicles will be stored on site other than on the designated route,
 - e. Measures to control the spread of invasive weeds,
 - f. Soil stripping methods, reinstatement measures, and
 - g. Best practice pollution control measures.
7. In relation to the SSSI, Ramsar and SPA the screening opinion of the LPA states that *“As the pole is being replaced on a like for like basis no negative impact is anticipated in relation to the integrity of the designated sites upon which the pole is located.”*
8. Further the Secretary of State notes that Natural England has issued assent under Section 28H of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (letter dated 15 September 2022, ref. NE 1003221631CA). The assent also requires the Applicant to implement a number of mitigating measures including timings to carry out works and on the use of access routes, biosecurity measures and use of toolbox talk to minimise disturbance to the features of the SSSI, Ramsar and SPA.
9. In view of the above factors the Secretary of State considers that any potential likely significant effects to protected species or the habitats of the SSSI, Ramsar and SPA will be mitigated subject to the implementation of the measures detailed in the Habitat Regulation Assessment report and as agreed with Natural England.
10. The Application does not include information with regards to designated heritage assets, however it is noted that the Development does not pass through any of these and that there are no Scheduled Monuments located within 1 kilometre of the



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Development. Further the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns in relation to this matter.

11. The Application does not include information with regards to potential impacts to archaeological remains, however as mentioned above the Development is to replace existing infrastructure. Therefore, on the basis of the information available it appears reasonable to conclude that there would be no potential for buried archaeology and heritage assets to be present and impacted by the Development. In addition, the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns on this matter.
12. The Application does not include information with regards to listed buildings in the vicinity of the Development, however it is noted that the Little Ashton, Grade II listed building is at approximately 130 from Development. Nevertheless, as the Development is to replace existing infrastructure it is considered unlikely that there would be any significant effects to the setting of the Grade II building. Further, the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns on this matter.
13. The Application does not include information with regards to potential impacts to residential receptors. However due to the temporary and limited nature of the construction works, it is considered unlikely that there would be any potential significant effects to the surrounding residential receptors. Also, it is noted that the LPA's screening views do not raise any concerns on this matter.
14. Finally, the Application does not suggest that there are other known developments in the area. In addition, given the temporary and localised nature of the Development, the Secretary of State considers that it is unlikely that there would be any localised likely significant effects from the Development in combination with other existing or approved projects.

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, the Secretary of State concludes that the Development is **not an EIA** development under the 2017 Regulations and does not require a statutory EIA as it is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment due to its nature, location and size. A copy of this letter has been sent to the LPA for information.

Yours sincerely,

Francesco Marolda
Overhead Lines Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning