



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Mr John O'Reilly  
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Our ref: 1786u  
Your ref: JO/MILS E6L5

31 January 2024

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: JO/MILS E6L5 HURST CASTLE & LYMINGTON RIVER  
SSSI**

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 one wooden pole within a 99 metre 11 kV line

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 Power Electric Distribution (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of New Forest District 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 following designated sensitive areas:
  - Sturt Pond Local Nature Reserve
  - Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar Site
  - Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI)
4. The applicant produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in April 2023, noting a variety of mitigations that they would abide by during the development’s works. These mitigations include: having designated routes for works vehicles and avoiding completing the works outside of bird breeding season.
5. In April 2023, the applicant consulted with Natural England (NE) regarding the sensitive area designations and submitted the HRA for their information. Upon submission of this information, NE granted assent within the period of 1 September 2024 to 31 December 2024 (document reference: 2104231138BNG).
6. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 12 July 2023 (planning reference: 23/10698).

Yours sincerely,

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