



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1800u
Your ref: JO/MANN E3L5 Lions Hill SSSI

12 December 2023

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: MANNINGTON E3L5 LIONS HILL 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 seven poles as part of an 11kV 1,066 metre overhead 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 Electric Power Distribution (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of South Downs National Park Authority (“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 several designated sensitive areas:
 - Lions Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Dorset Heathlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protected Area (SPA) and Ramsar
4. The applicant produced a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) on 2 October 2023, which detailed the operations and mitigation measures that will be undertaken during the development such as timing of works (outside of the bird breeding season) and seeking advice of an ecologist if reptiles are identified on site.
5. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the SSSI designation, on 5 October 2023 they granted assent for the Applicant to complete works within the period between 1 October 2024 and 28 February 2025 based on the HRA submitted regarding the proposed development (Natural England reference: NE 0310231018VT). NE also produced a technical note via email correspondence on 5 October 2023, detailing additional mitigations for the applicant to consider during the development.
6. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 7 November 2023 (planning reference: P/STA/2023/05787). They suggested, “... the works will take no more two days to complete, therefore impacts will be short term and temporary in nature.”.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna



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Head of Network Planning team
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