



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

John O'Reilly  
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Our ref: 1901u  
Your ref: JO/MILA E6L5 LV Linkbank Farm

31<sup>st</sup> July 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: Mill Lane, Linbank Farm**

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 two 240/415v LV poles



## 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 New Forest National Park Authority (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his 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 a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone associated with The New Forest SSSI.
4. The proposed development falls within New Forest National Parks.
5. The LPA was consulted on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The LPA concluded their checks on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The LPA raised no objections and noted that “there would be no significant impact upon the integrity of the SSSI, and there would be no exacerbated visual impact over that existing.
6. Natural England (NE) was consulted on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
7. Natural England granted conditional assent for the works on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (document reference: 1306231437EA). The condition noted that works are to take place in line with the protocols outlined in NE document ‘Practical Guidelines for working in the New Forest SSSI.
8. Natural England concluded, “provided the above conditions are met, the operations should not cause significant damage to the special interest of the SSSI.”
9. The County Archaeologist was contacted on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. They raised “no concerns” to the proposed development via email dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
10. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and not likely to have a significant effect on the Natural Landscape.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna



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Head of Network Planning team  
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