



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Mr John O'Reilly
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Our ref: 1937u
Your ref: JO/FAIR E2L5 Totterdown

27 August 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/FAIR E2L5 TOTTERDOWN - COTSWOLD WATER
PARK 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 four poles in an existing 11kV overhead line



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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 Cotswold District Council (“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 designated sensitive area:
 - Cotswold Water Park Site of Special Scientific Interest
 - A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Cotswold Water Park SSSI
4. Natural England was consulted via email regarding the Cotswold Water Park SSSI and responded on 1 November 2023, granting assent to the development between 1 September 2024 and 28 February 2025.
5. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development and concluded that an EIA is not required as the proposed development would not be likely to have significant environmental effects due to its size, nature and location on 5 December 2023 (planning reference: 23/03726/SCR).
6. The County Archaeologist was consulted and responded “If the proposal is for like-for-like replacement...there should be little need for any archaeological investigation” 19 March 2024.
7. RSK ADAS Ltd carried out an ecology survey at the site on 12 June 2024 and subsequently produced an Ecological Constraints Report on 17 July 2024 (reference: RT69105-1385(00)). The report identifies potentially significant ecology constraints and provides recommendations on how the Applicant should modify existing approaches to the works for the protection of the designated sensitive area.

Yours sincerely,



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John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
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