



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

John O'Reilly  
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC  
New Forest Depot  
Minstead  
Lyndhurst  
SO43 7PE

**Energy Infrastructure Planning**

3-8 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2JP

**Email:**

S37consents@energysecurity.gov.uk

**Website:** [www.gov.uk/desnz](http://www.gov.uk/desnz)

Our ref: 1863u  
Your ref: JO/YATK E1L5 Truckle Hill SSSI

02 September 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/YATK E1L5 Truckle 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 a single wooden transformer pole as part of an 11kV, 40 metre line



## 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 Wiltshire Council (“the LPA”). 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 several sensitive areas.
3. The proposed development falls within the Dank’s Down and Truckle Hill Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Cotswolds National Landscape (formerly known as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who noted no objection to the proposed development on 18 January 2024 (reference: PL/2023/10196). It was concluded that EIA is not required as, “the likely resulting effects of the temporary works and the longer term operational effects of completed development are considered minor in nature”.
5. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and is likely to have minimal visual impact on the National Landscape in which it is situated.
6. The Applicant submitted a method statement and requested for assent from Natural England (NE). On 23 October 2023, NE granted assent to the development from 1 April 2024 to 31 October 2025 (reference: NE1210231048EA). The method statement detailed mitigations such as following scheduling works to be carried out in dry weather and to conduct excavation in an appropriate manner to ensure the turf and soil are reinstated in the correct order.
7. As the development is in a SSSI, Secretary of State requested the Applicant to produce an Ecology Survey to explore any possible risk and mitigation to the sensitive area.



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

8. The Applicant produced a survey in July 2024, which noted that a pole was situated approximately 3 metres from a mature oak tree and that National Joint Utilities Group guidelines should be followed to avoid damaging the tree. Furthermore, the survey advised that the Applicant should check for potential bat roost features regarding a pole and contact Natural England should any features be found.

Yours sincerely,

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