



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1864u
Your ref: JO/YATK E1L5 Honeybrook Farm SSSI

23 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: Honeybrook Farm 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 1 x wood pole on an existing 11kV overhead line. The associated pole-mounted transformer may also be replaced depending on its condition



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 a sensitive area.
3. The proposed development falls within the Cotswolds National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding National Beauty) and the Honeybrook Farm Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The Honeybrook Farm SSSI is designated for lowland calcareous & neutral grasslands and lowland mixed deciduous woodland. Woodland is not present in the worksite of the proposed development, and any impacts to the grassland from vehicle movements will be mitigated by carrying out the proposed development during a period of dry weather – or if this is not possible ground mats shall be used to avoid ground disturbance.
5. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: PL/2023/10073) and concluded that EIA is not required as the proposed development was not considered to give rise to significant impacts of effects, and the impacts arising would largely be confined to the immediate locality with no trans-boundary effects.
6. The Applicant consulted with Natural England who, on 23 October 2023, issued assent for the proposed development to be carried out between 1 April 2024 – 31 October 2025 (Natural England reference: NE1110231502EA).



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

7. An ecology survey was carried out at the site of the proposed development on 12 June 2024 and the subsequent “Ecological Constraints Report” was issued on 17 July 2024 by RSK ADAS Ltd (reference: BRT69105-1385(00)). The survey identified potential habitats for nesting birds and hazel dormice in the scrub and hedgerow in the vicinity of the proposed development as well as cracks within the pole to be replaced which offers the potential to support individual or a small number of bats. The report outlines mitigations which shall be followed by the Applicant and significantly reduce the potential for any impact on these protected species.
8. The proposed development is a like-for-like change to an existing piece of infrastructure and is likely to have minimal visual impact on the National Landscape in which it is situated.

Yours sincerely,

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