



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1935u  
Your ref: JO/CRIC E3L5 Cotswold Water Park SSSI

05 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/CRIC E3L5 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 8 wooden poles as part of an 11kV, 1735 metre overhead 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 a sensitive area.
3. The proposed development falls within the Cotswold Waterpark Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The Applicant produced a method statement and submitted it to Natural England (NE) for consultation in October 2023. The method statement detailed mitigations such as excavations will not be left open overnight and conducting the works in dry weather.
5. In November 2023, NE responded to the consultation in communications via email and granted assent between the date of 1 September 2024 and 28 February 2025 (reference: 1210230920JC).
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA, in response they who concluded that EIA is not required (reference: PL/2023/10230)

Yours sincerely,

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