



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Sasha Woodhouse
Southern Electric Power Distribution Plc
Walton Road
Drayton
Portsmouth
PO6 1UJ

Energy Infrastructure Planning
3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email: S37consents
@energysecurity.gov.uk
Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 1967u
Your ref: SW/LANC E2L5 (1)

11 September 2024

Dear Miss Woodhouse,

**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: LANC E2L5

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 pole as part of an 11kV, 1,350 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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of East Hampshire District 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 South Downs National Park, Woolmer Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Woolmer Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protected Area (SPA).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who has no objection to the development and concluded that an EIA is not required as the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment on 19 June 2024 (planning reference: SDNP/24/01480/SCREEN).
5. The Applicant consulted with the County Archaeologist who confirmed in communications on 21 June 2024 that they had no objections to the proposed development.
6. The Applicant produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in February 2024 which provided details on the working method, risks to protected sites, and proposed mitigation measures.
7. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and granted assent to the development from the period between 1 October 2024 to 28 February 2025 (reference: 0802240929VT).
8. An ecology survey was carried out at the site of the proposed development on 2 August 2024 and the subsequent “Ecological Constraints Report” was issued on 12 August 2024 by ADAS Ltd (reference: BRT69105-1369). It detailed mitigations such as obtaining a non-licensed method statement for reptiles and Hazel Dormouse and following Street Works (formerly National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG)) guidance regarding tree root protections.



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

9. Having considered the HRA, the Secretary of State considers there may be likely significant effects on a National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to potential disturbance to European dry heaths habitats and breeding birds, as a result of excavations and vehicle movements. The Secretary of State has considered whether there could be an Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site. The works are expected to take 1 week to complete during a period of dry weather. As such any open excavations will be closed overnight. An assessment of access routes will be conducted by a competent person prior to works commencing. The proposed development will be carried out outside of bird breeding season and works vehicles will stay on proposed access routes and will not drive on habitats beyond these routes.
10. In light of the proposed mitigations, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site, and this is beyond all reasonable scientific doubt.

Yours sincerely,

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