



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Nick Luffman
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

Our ref: 1976u
Your ref: NL/Wymering-Porchester No1

07 November 2024

Dear Mr Luffman,

**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: NL/WYMERING-PORCHESTER NO1

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 4 electricity wooden poles and associated stays as part of a 33kV, 408 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 Portsmouth City 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 Portsdown Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The Applicant produced a method statement which provided details on the working method and proposed mitigation measures such as ensuring excavation sites are closed overnight and avoiding bird breeding season.
5. Natural England was consulted regarding the designated sensitive area and granted assent to the development from the period between 1 September 2024 and 31 December 2025 based on the method statement submitted regarding the proposed development (Natural England reference: 3101241544EA).
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who noted no objection to the proposed development (reference: 24/00730/AD) in July 2024.
7. In August 2024, the secretary of state requested the Applicant to produce an ecology survey to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised mitigations such as installation of bat boxes for the removal of potential bat roost features within the site.

Yours sincerely,

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