



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2009u  
Your ref: AM/NUFF E2L5 Bix Bottom SSSI

18<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Mr Monk,

**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:** AM/NUFF E2L5 Bix Bottom 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) 11kV electricity wood pole on the Bix Bottom SSSI.**



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### 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 South Oxfordshire 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 Chilterns National Landscapes., Ancient Woodland and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone associated with Bix Bottom SSSI.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA concluded their checks on 17 June 2024, advising that they had no objections subject to applicant following conditions outlined on the Form B document (reference: P24/S1602/OH).
5. The Applicant consulted Natural England (NE) 10 May 2024. NE responded on 15 May 2024, granting assent covering the period 1 September 2024 to 28 February 2025 subject to strict adherence with the following conditions: ensuring works are completed during dry conditions. NE advised that, provided that the above conditions are met, the development should not cause significant effect to the special interest of the SSSI.
6. The Applicant consulted the County Archaeologist (CA) on 15 May 2024. The CA responded on 17 June 2024 confirming that they had no objections for the proposed development.
7. An Ecological survey was carried out on 12 August 2024 by RSK ADAS Limited. Subsequently, an Ecological constraints report was issued on 29 August 2024 (reference: 1050155). The survey determined that the area of proposed works comprised of woodland with clearing along the pole line. The works are due to take place in proximity to trees.
8. The survey also found that the woodland area on site provided suitable habitat for nesting birds, Hazel Dormouse, bats reptiles and Badger. The Ecological constraint report outlined mitigations which will be followed by Applicant to minimise the risk of impacts on these species.



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9. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and not likely to have a significant effect on the Natural Landscape.

Yours sincerely,

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