



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2048u
Your ref: EZH611/ DH/ Arne

14th February 2025

Dear Ms Hasset

**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: EZH611/ DH/ Arne

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:

- Add an additional pole with a lame leg under the existing high voltage overhead line.



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- Install a new pole mounted transformer which will be supported by the new pole and will step down the HV supply to low voltage.

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 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views Dorset Council (“the LPA”). In particular, 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 Dorset National Landscapes, Stoborough & Creech Heaths Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation, Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Areas, Dorset Heathlands Ramsar, and Purbeck Heath National Nature Reserves.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA concluded their checks and had no objections to make on the proposed development on 24 September 2024
5. The Applicant consulted Natural England on 31 July 2024. Natural England granted unconditional assent on 12 June 2024 covering the period of 01/12/2024 to 28/02/2025. NE confirmed that the plans would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites.
6. The Applicant consulted Dorset National Landscape on 8 October 2024 who responded via email on 6 October 2024 with no objections to make on the proposed upgrade.
7. An Ecological Appraisal was undertaken by Ecosulis Ltd. Subsequently, the report was issued on 15 September 2024 (reference: J006845) The report determined that the area of the proposed works comprised of large areas of dry heath, wet heath and valley mire, and these often occur together in mosaics and zonation’s of heathland vegetation. It is therefore recommended that the Applicant follows the recommendations outlined in the Ecological appraisal to minimise the risk of impacts on Wildlife and protected species.
8. The Applicant provided a Habitat Regulations Assessment (“the HRA”) which was carried out 31 July 2024, the document provided



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details on work methods, risks to the protected sites, and proposed mitigation measures.

9. Having considered the HRA and Ecological Appraisal, 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 large areas of Heathland and Heathland plants located in/ around the proposed site. The Secretary of State has considered whether there could be an Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site. The Applicant has provided appropriate mitigations on the HRA advising that all soil will be separated during excavations to ensure that it can be reinstated in layers. Excavated soil will be stored on the road as a road closure will be in place. Herring fencing will be used around any unsupervised excavations for the protection of the public and animals. Considering the proposed mitigation, 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.
10. 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