



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2080u  
Your ref: JO/CROW E10L5 / Longmoor Bog SSSI

14 March 2025

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: CROWTHORNE E10L5 11KV - LONGMOOR BOG 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 two poles within a span of approximately 324m of 11kV overhead line



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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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Wokingham Borough 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 Longmoor Bog Local Nature Reserve and Longmoor Bog Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The Applicant submitted a method statement and requested for assent from Natural England (NE). On 27 September 2024, NE granted conditional assent for the development from 1 March 2025 to 1 September 2025 (reference: 0209241211JT). The conditions specify that all vegetation, cuttings or arisings must be removed from the site to prevent impacts from nutrification, temperature changes, and light levels. Additionally, works must only be carried out when the ground is sufficiently dry to prevent vehicle use from damaging to the soil surface. The method statement included mitigation measures, such as keeping works vehicles on designated access routes whenever possible when crossing the SSSI. Any vehicles crossing or operating near the SSSI boundary will carry spill kits, and all refuelling will take place outside the designated area.
5. The Applicant consulted with the County Archaeologist who confirmed in communications on 30 September 2024 that they had no objections to the proposed development as they “do not consider that the works require any mitigation”.
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development and concluded that an EIA is not required on 18 November 2024 (planning reference: 242749).
7. An Ecology Survey was conducted at the proposed development site on 18 October 2024, and the subsequent “Ecological Constraints Report” was issued on 18 December 2024 by ADAS (reference: BRT69105-1444 (00) / 1052777). The site consists of lowland valley mire, wet woodland, and wet heathland, providing suitable foraging and



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commuting habitat for Great Crested Newts, bats, reptiles, nesting birds, Stag Beetles and Hazel Dormice, with bracken offering additional shelter. The watercourse may support fish, and European Hedgehogs, Common Toads and Frogs could be present within the woodland, grassland and pond areas. Works near mature trees must follow Street Works UK Guidelines for root protection, and a 10 m buffer must be maintained around Himalayan Balsam and other non-native invasive plant species. A non-licensed method statement with ecological supervision will guide works involving Great Crested Newt and Stag Beetles. If works occur during the nesting bird season an ecologist should complete a pre works check. Before pole removal, a ground-level tree assessment must check for potential roosting features, and a non-licensed method statement or mitigation licence is required for Hazel Dormice. If a Badger sett is found within 30 metres of the works, activity must stop immediately, and ADAS must be contacted. Pollution prevention measures must comply with Environment Agency regulations, and at least one bat box and one bird box should be installed on mature trees to compensate for habitat loss.

Yours sincerely,

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