



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2104u
Your ref: P1 Tower Replacement at Upton Heath

14 May 2025

Dear Mrs Zsuzsa Suto-Somogyvari

**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: Mannington Lychett 132kV Overhead Line Refurbishment Scheme.

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:

- Refurbishment and replacement project along the 132kV overhead line approximately 752m between Mannington and Lytchett in Dorset.



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- Replace one 132kV tower at Upton Heath for a like for like basis.
- Refurbish three 132kV towers and undergo minor steel work.

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 Dorset 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 132 kilovolts and therefore requires a mandatory screening.
3. The proposed development falls within Dorset Heathlands Ramsar, Dorset Heath SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Upton Heath SSSI and an Impact Risk Zone.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA concluded their checks and had no objections to make on the proposed development on 12 April 2024.
5. The Applicant consulted Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) who responded via email on 11 February 2024. DWT were satisfied that the Applicant has done what is necessary to mitigate the impact to wildlife and the Nature Reserve and had no objections to make on the proposed development and it's timing given within the assent from Natural England to avoid the bird nesting season.
6. The Applicant consulted Natural England (NE) on 18 October 2024. NE responded on 15 November 2024 concurring with the Applicant's appropriate assessment and confirms that the plan or project as proposed would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites. NE granted assent covering the period 2 December 2024 until 26 October 2025.
7. A Botanical Assessment was issued out in July 2023 by Vegetation Survey & Assessment Limited on behalf of the Applicant. In carrying out the survey they concluded with no objections. However, underlined recommendations that the Applicant will implement throughout the duration of the proposed development (reference: GPSMAP 64S).
8. In accordance with The Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990, the applicant published a statutory notice to the



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- public in the local newspaper, Bournemouth Daily Echo on 6 February 2025 & 13 February 2025. The Applicant received no representations regarding the proposed development by the deadline of 7 March 2025.
9. An EDNA survey was conducted by ADAS on 7 June 2023 on behalf of the Applicant. The survey results reported negative and found no presence of Great Crested Newts located around the proposed sites.
 10. A Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report was carried out by Dave Jones CEnv MCIEEM. The survey determined the habitat located in/ around the proposed site comprised of a transition between lowland fen, lowland heath land and purple moor grass. The habitat was suitable for breeding birds and common reptiles. The nearby areas dry heath was suitable for rare reptile's, sand lizard and smooth snake. The survey found potential disturbance to breeding Dartford Warble, Nightjar and Woodlark in absence of mitigations. The Applicant is recommended to follow the recommendations outlined in the Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report dated 22 November 2022, to minimise the risk of impacts on Wildlife and protected species/ habitats.
 11. The Applicant provided a Habitats Regulation Assessment ("the HRA") which was carried out 12 October 2023, the document provided details on work methods, risks to the protected sites and proposed mitigation measures.
 12. Having considered the HRA and Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report, 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 disturbance to the Heathland habitats 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 the proposed development will be carried outside of the bird nesting season. The Applicant has advised that pre-construction surveys will be carried out prior to works to ensure breeding birds are not present - where reptiles are identified, the advice of an Ecologist will be sought.
 13. 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
 14. 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.



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Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
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