



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Zsuzsa Suto-Somogyvari
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC
43 Forbury Road
Reading
RG1 3JH

Energy Infrastructure Planning

3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email:

S37consents@energysecurity.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 2105u

Your ref: P28 and P29 Tower Replacement at Canford Heath
SSSI

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 792m between Mannington and Lytchett in Dorset.



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

- Replace two 132kV tower for a like for like basis.
- Minor bar-by-bar steelwork replacement on two 132kV towers.

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 Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole 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 Heath SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA, Cranford SSSI and an Impact Risk Zone.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA concluded their checks and had advised the development will not significantly impact the environment and had no objections to make on the proposed development on 19 December 2024.
5. The Applicant consulted Natural England (NE) on 18 October 2024. Natural England responded on 14 November 2024 granting assent covering the period 2 December 2024 until 26 October 2025.
6. An ArchaeoCheck Report was issued by RSK ADAS Limited on 22 February 2022. The study found no designated heritage assets between towers P28 and P29. However, the towers are located within post-medieval trackways, extraction pits and probable wartime training site. The Applicant is recommended to follow the recommendations outlined in the report to minimize the impact on recorded or undiscovered archaeological remains.
7. In accordance with The Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990, the applicant published a statutory notice to the public in the local newspaper, Bournemouth Daily Echo on 6 February 2025 & 13 February 2025. The Applicant received no representation regarding the proposed development by the deadline of 7 March 2025.
8. A Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report was carried out by Dave Jones CEnv MCIEEM. The survey determined the habitat located in/ around four of the proposed sites comprised of a combination of dry or humid heath with abundant purple moor-grass, humid area of heath



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

dominated by bracken, mixed woodland dominated by birch *Betula* sp with occasional rowan pedunculate oak and Scots pine. The habitat near or within the immediate vicinity of the towers is suitable for breeding birds including Annex 1 and Schedule 1 species and all species of reptiles. The site is notable for sand lizard, smooth snake, breeding Dartford Warble and nightjar and heathland invertebrates. The survey found potential disturbance to breeding Dartford Warble and Nightjar 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.

9. 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.
10. 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 use of track matting will be applied to reduce soil disturbance. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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