



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2118u  
Your ref: MN-BUSH-SWAN-WARE (YELLOW) P27-P28

23 May 2025

Dear Mr Matthew Norris

**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:** MN-BUSH-SWAN-WARE (YELLOW) P27-P28  
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 2 poles and associated stays on approximately 334m of an existing 33kV overhead line.

Secretary of State considerations:



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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 to be installed above ground in a sensitive area.
3. The proposed development falls within Dorset National Landscape, Poole Harbour SPA, Poole Harbour Ramsar, Wareham Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and an Impact Risk Zone.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA determined that the development is unlikely to have significant environmental impacts and had no objections to make on 9 January 2025.
5. The Applicant consulted Cotswolds National Landscape (CNL) on 25 November 2025. CNL responded via email with no concerns on the proposed development.
6. The Applicant consulted Natural England on 28 November 2024. Natural England responded 12 December 2024, concurring with the appropriate assessment and confirmed that the proposed development would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the European Sites.
7. Natural England granted assent covering the period from 1 October 2025 to 20 December 2025 (reference: 0212240957NG)
8. An Ecological Constraints Report was issued out by RSK ADAS Limited on 21 February 2025. The report determined the site comprised of grazing marshes joining to the River Frome. The survey noted that the site provides great value to wintering birds associated with Poole Harbour as a feeding site and high-water roost. P27 was within an area of wet pasture. The immediate area around the pole was dominated by Soft Rush with abundant Yorkshire Fog and frequent Wild Madder, Cock’s-foot and Common Sorrel, occasional Creeping Buttercup and Common Ragwort. P28 was situated on an earth mound, the immediate area to the north dominated by European Gorse with a log pile present. Bracken and Yorkshire Fog abundant around the remaining area of the pole with occasional Soft Rush, Bramble, Common Reed and scattered young Hawthorn and Blackthorn.

P28 had two potential roosts feature suitable for individual bats (PRF - I). P27 and P28 had several vegetated wet ditches within the site and



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an area of reed bed with suitability for Water Vole. P27 and P28 had suitability for Wetland birds to nest during the breeding season and forage during the winter and is associated with the Poole Harbour SPA/Ramsar. Six ponds were within 250 m of the site and several ditches around were suitable for Great Crested Newt as well as suitable terrestrial habitat. Site had suitable habitat for widespread species of reptile.

9. The proposed development is likely to adversely impact the Ecology of the site in the absence of mitigations. It is therefore recommended that the Applicant follows the recommendations outlined in the Ecological Constraints Report to minimise the risk of impacts on Wildlife and protected species.
10. The Applicant provided a Habitats Regulation Assessment ("the HRA") which was carried out 28 November 2024, the document provided details on work methods, risks to the protected sites and proposed mitigation measures.
11. Having considered the HRA and the Ecological Constraints 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 excavation and vehicle movement causing 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, works will be carried out during a period of dry weather and an Ecologist will check the access routes are clear of breeding birds/ reptiles prior to works. The Applicant advised temporary rubberised mats will be placed on the ground at turning points to prevent the slewing of tracks damaging the surface of the site, excavated soil will be separated in layers and placed on a ground sheet in readiness for reinstatement in the correct order.
12. 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.
13. 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



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Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team