



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2103u
Your ref: MN/PS008213 CIRE-CRIC (Black)

28 May 2025

Dear Mr 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: CIRE-CRIC (BLACK)

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 a wooden H pole as part of an 33kV, 194 metre 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 Cotswold District Council and Wiltshire 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 Cotswold Water Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The Applicant consulted Cotswold District Council, who responded on 18 December 2024 with no objections to the development, with the condition that Gloucestershire County Council Highways were consulted (planning reference: 24/03518/OHL).
5. The Applicant consulted with Wiltshire Council who raised no objections to the development. On 8 January 2025, the council concluded that the proposal would be ‘unlikely to cause any tangible negative effects’ (planning reference: PL/2024/10982).
6. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the designated sensitive area and granted assent to the development from the period between 1 July 2025 and 1 October 2025 (reference: 2511240957MH).
7. An ecology survey was carried out at the site of the proposed development on 8 January 2025 and the subsequent “Ecological Constraints Report” was issued on 3 February 2025 by ADAS Ltd (reference: BRT69105-1483(00)). The survey identified that the pole is situated 23 metres east of the Old Canal within an area of willow. The site provides suitable habitat for Roman Snails, Great Crested Newts, widespread reptile species, nesting birds, Hazel Dormice, badgers, otters, and fish species. To mitigate potential impacts, a non-licensed method statement should be prepared outlining appropriate working methods to avoid impacts to Roman Snails, Great Crested Newts, Hazel Dormice, and widespread reptiles. If works occur during the nesting bird season, a pre-works nesting bird check must be conducted before any vegetation or tree removal. Active nests should be



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protected with a 5-metre buffer until chicks have fully fledged. Additionally, all works should adhere to Street Works UK guidelines to prevent damage to trees, taking root protection zones into account.

Yours sincerely,

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