



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

John O'Reilly  
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Our ref: 2158u

Your ref: JO/FOIN E4L5 Breamore Marsh

11<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Mr John 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:** JO/FOIN E4L5 Breamore Marsh

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 11kV electricity wood poles approximately 291m.

## 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 New Forest National Park Authority (“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 Breamore Marsh SSSI and an Impact Risk Zone.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA concluded their checks and raised no objections on the proposed development on 23 December 2024.
5. The Applicant consulted the County Archaeologist (CA) who responded via email on 5 December 2024. The CA advised they found no record of archaeological sites located in proximity of the proposed site and had no archaeological issues to raise.
6. The Applicant consulted Natural England on 15 November 2024. Natural England responded via email on 3 December 2024 granting assent covering the period between 1 August 2025 – 31 September 2025.
7. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was completed by Wessex Ecology 5 March 2025. The report determined the site supported important habitats which are highly sensitive and vulnerable to vehicle disturbance and excavations. Shrubs around pole 7 had some potential to support reptiles and bird nesting habitats. Pole 7 was also close to a pond which is known to support a breeding population of great crested newts and there is a likely presence of grass snake. Although the risk is considered low there is a possibility that great crested newts (and/or other amphibians) could be harmed by the works in absence of mitigations. It is therefore recommended that the Applicant follows the recommendations outlined in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal to minimise the risk of impacts on Wildlife and protected species.

8. 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