



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2145u
Your ref: MN/PS007388 CERA-PIDD-P163(P24)

4 June 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: CERA-PIDD-P163 (BLACK/WHITE) TEE CHMI
(BLUE/GREEN) TEED MAIN-WINA (BLUE)**

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 single wooden pole as part of a 33kV, 175 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 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, Hog Cliff National Nature Reserve, Hog Cliff Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Cerne & Sydling Downs Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development and concluded that an EIA is not required on 14 February 2025 (planning reference: P/STA/2025/00361).
5. The Applicant produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in January 2025 which provided details on the working method, risks to protected sites, and proposed mitigation measures.
6. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and granted assent for the development from 1 October 2025 to 30 December 2025 (reference: NE 1701251125NG).
7. An ecology survey was carried out at the site of the proposed development on 17 February 2025 and the subsequent “Ecological Constraints Report” was issued on 12 March 2025 by ADAS Ltd (reference: BRT69105-1506(00)). The survey classified the pole as PRF-M due to multiple holes that may be suitable for roosting bats, with nearby tree lines and woodland providing appropriate commuting and foraging habitats. The grassland, gorse, woodland, and scrub on site offer suitable foraging, commuting, sheltering and basking habitat for reptiles including Sand Lizard and Smooth Snake, while the calcareous soil is suitable for Roman Snail. Additionally, the site contains nesting habitat for birds in the form of trees, scrub, and rough grassland for ground-nesting species. No setts or evidence of badgers were found during the survey, though nearby woodlands may provide suitable habitat. Several recommendations to mitigate the limited impacts on

protected species and habitats were outlined and will be followed by the Applicant throughout the development.

8. Having considered the HRA, 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 dry grassland and heath, as a result of excavations and vehicle movements. The Secretary of State has considered whether there could be an Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site. The works are expected to be completed within one to two days, with any open excavations closed on the same day. The proposed development will take place outside of the bird breeding season, and all works vehicles will remain on designated access routes as specified in the plan, avoiding any habitats beyond these routes. Additionally, all vehicles will be equipped with spill kits.
9. In light of the proposed mitigations, 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.

Yours sincerely,

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