



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2211u
Your ref: MN-PS008212 CIRE-NLEA-WHWA(YELLOW)

24 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: PS008212 CIRE-NLEA-WHWA (YELLOW)

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 poles as part of a 33 kV 2,634m line

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 Cotswold District Council ("the LPA"). In particular, 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 following designated sensitive areas:
 - Barnsley Warren Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Cotswolds National Landscape
4. The local National Landscape unit was consulted by the applicant, in November 2024.
5. The applicant submitted a method statement to Natural England (NE) as part of their request for assent to work in the SSSI. The method statement included mitigations such as operating a tracked excavator, using temporary rubber mats, and not leaving any excavations open overnight.
6. NE granted assent to the development from the period between 1 July 2025 and 1 October 2025 based on the submitted method statement (Natural England reference: 0711241420LJ).
7. In January 2025, ADAS produced an ecology survey on behalf of the applicant to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised mitigations such as producing a non-licensed method statement for roman snail and reptiles. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the current method statement contains appropriate mitigations regarding these protected species.

8. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and had no objection in May 2025 (no planning reference).

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
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