



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Madeleine Pain
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC
Po BOX 36
Lyndhurst
SO43 7PH

Energy Infrastructure Planning

3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email:

S37consents@energysecurity.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 2276u
Your ref: Little Marsh EZV282

10 September 2025

Dear Miss Pain,

**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: LITTLE MARSH EZV282

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 pole mounted transformer as part of a 11kV, 45 metre overhead line



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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 (“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 following designated sensitive areas:
 - New Forest National Park
 - Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar
 - North Solent SSSI
 - Solent and Southampton Water SPA
4. Dalcour Maclaren produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in June 2025 on behalf of the Applicant which provided details on the working method and risks to protected sites. The HRA concluded that the likelihood of significant effects arising from the proposal, both alone and in-combination could be ruled out.
5. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the HRA. In July 2025, they stated, “Given the limited scale, short duration, and nature of the proposed works, we concur that there are no Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on the designated European sites or the North Solent SSSI. We therefore agree that further assessment or SSSI Assent is not required.”.
6. Having considered the HRA, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no likely significant effects on any National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the lack of connectivity between the works and the protected area.
7. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who noted no objection to the proposed development (reference: 25/00608OHL) in July 2025. It was



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

concluded that no long-term impact on the SSSI is anticipated, and the development would not result in any greater visual impact than the current installation.

Yours sincerely,

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