



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2271u
Your ref: Beacon Hill Leisure EME335

21 October 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: BEACON HILL LEISURE EME335

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:

- Upgrade approximately 430 metres of 11kV overhead line from single to three phase;
- Replace two wooden poles



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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 Upton Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area (SPA), and Dorset Heaths Special Areas 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 as the proposed development is not likely to result in a significant environmental impact on 17 July 2025 (planning reference: P/STA/2025/02871).
5. The Applicant consulted with Natural England (NE) regarding the designated sensitive areas and concluded that SSSI Assent and a Habitat Regulations Assessment were not required, having ruled out any likely significant effects on the designated sites. NE subsequently responded on 11 August 2025 with no objection (reference: 1905251336JT).
6. The County Archaeologist responded on 19 May 2025, following a consultation, stating that there are no significant archaeological reasons for concern.
7. An ecological walkover was conducted at the site of the proposed development on 7 May 2025 and the subsequent “Ecological Impact Assessment” was issued in June 2025 by Darwin Ecology Ltd. The survey identified that areas of neutral grassland, gorse scrub, lowland acid grassland, mixed woodland, and bracken on site provide suitable foraging and nesting habitats for bats, reptiles, breeding birds, badgers, and other terrestrial mammals. A number of recommendations to mitigate the limited impacts on protected species and habitats were outlined and will be followed by the Applicant throughout the development.



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Yours sincerely,

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