



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Our ref: 2321u
Your ref: JO/CHRI E9L5 Blackwater Jcn

3rd December 2025

Dear 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/CHRI E9L5 Blackwater Jcn

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:

- The replacement of three electricity pole supporting an 11kV overhead line spanning approximately 246 meters within Moors River System SSSI.



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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 PLC ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 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 is located within the Moors River System SSSI and an Impact Risk Zone.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA, which completed its review and confirmed that the proposed development is not considered EIA development. The LPA advised that, provided the works are undertaken during daytime hours and residents are informed of potential noise disturbance, it has no objections. This advice was issued on 19 August 2025.
5. The Applicant consulted Natural England, which granted unconditional assent on 21 February 2025. The assent is valid from 1 September 2025 to 31 December 2025.
6. The Applicant consulted the County Archaeologist, who responded on 27 February 2025, advising that the limited ground disturbance involved poses no significant archaeological concern.
7. An ADAS Ecological Constraints Report was issued on 20 June 2025 by RSK ASDAS Limited. The survey identified a network of ditches (not assessed during the survey) surrounds the site, with adjacent grassland suitable for Great Crested Newt. Grassland across the site provides foraging and basking habitat for reptiles. Scrub and bracken near P1 (E10L5) and log piles within woodland access offer additional shelter and foraging opportunities. P46 (E9L5) contained an active Jackdaw nest during the survey. Grassland and scrub in this area may also support ground-nesting birds. P1 (E10L5), P47 (E10L5), P46 (E10L5), P47 (E9L5), P48 (E9L5), and P45 (E10L5) were identified as having potential roost features (PRF-M) suitable for multiple bats.



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Water Voles may occur in the River Moors and River Stour, though the proposed works will not affect these rivers.

8. The embankment east of P1 (E10L5) and surrounding scrub provide suitable habitat for Badger sett creation, and woodland near P1 (E10L5) may also support Badgers. Otters may forage in the River Moors and River Stour and use tree roots for holt creation. However, the works will not impact river habitats or banks suitable for Otter holts.
9. The proposed development is likely to adversely impact the Ecology of the site in the absence of mitigations. It is therefore recommended that the Applicant follows the recommendations outlined in the Ecological Constraints Report to minimise the risk of impacts on Wildlife and protected species.
10. 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