



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

John O'Reilly
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC
New Forest Depot
Minstead
Lyndhurst
SO43 7PE

Energy Infrastructure Planning

3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email:

S37consents@energysecurity.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 2427u
Your ref: JO/CHRI E6L5 Avon Tyrrell

22 May 2026

Dear Mr 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 E6L5 Avon Tyrrell

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 3 x wood poles on an existing 11kV overhead 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



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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 the New Forest National Park Authority (“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 New Forest National Park, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who raised no objection to the proposed development (reference: 25/00022OHL) and concluded that the proposed development is not an EIA development (reference: 25/00023SCR).
5. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Appropriate Assessment were completed on 9 December 2024 by the Applicant and submitted to Natural England.
6. Natural England concurred with the applications Appropriate Assessment and issued conditional assent on 3 January 2025 for the proposed development to be carried out between 1 September 2025 and 28 February 2026 (reference: 0912241402AS).
7. The Applicant subsequently notified Natural England on 6 February 2026 that the works were intended to be carried out from September 2026. As a Section 28G authority under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 the Applicant confirmed that there is no change to the effects on the SSSI as a result of this scheduling alteration.
8. An ecology survey was conducted in October 2025 by Wessex Ecology Limited on behalf of the Applicant, and the subsequent “Preliminary Ecological Appraisal” report was issued in October 2025 (reference: “Locations of proposed Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks pole replacements, New Forest SSSI & SAC, Bransgore, Hampshire”). The survey identified poles located within grazed acid grassland with extensive bramble and bracken around the base which provide good potential breeding habitats for a number of species which are qualifying features of the SAC. A number of recommendations to mitigate the limited impacts on protected species and habitats were outlined – these will be followed by the Applicant during the proposed development.



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9. Having considered the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and 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 the potential impacts on wet & dry heathland and breeding birds as a result of vehicle movements and excavations. The Secretary of State has considered whether there could be an Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site. The risks will be mitigated by undertaking the works outside of bird breeding season, ensuring the number works vehicles accessing the site are kept to a minimum and all vehicles follow designated access routes, carrying out the works during a period of dry weather, and ensuring suitable spill prevention measures are in place and adhered to. These mitigations are secured by conditions 3 & 4 of the associated consent granted under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.
10. In light of the proposed mitigation, 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