



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2468u
Your ref: ED/ALRE E5L5 River Itchen P61000 P61001

28 May 2026

Dear Ms Dunn,

**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: ALRE E5L5 - P61000 - P61001

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 Winchester City Council LPA (“the LPA”) for information.

Screening decision for a proposed development (“the proposed development”) to:

- Replacement of 1 pole and replacement of a stay on a separate pole on an 11kV, 91m overhead line



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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 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 areas:
 - River Itchen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - The Grange, Northington Registered Parks and Garden
4. In October 2025, the applicant produced a Habitats Regulation Assessment to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The assessment advised that works should take place outside of bird breeding season due to need for vegetation clearance and any excavations will be back filled the same day.
5. Natural England was consulted regarding the designated sensitive area in October 2025 and granted assent between 1 January 2026 and 31 January 2027.
6. In December 2025, the applicant produced an ecological constraints report to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised mitigations such as a Non-Licensed Method Statement for Great Crested Newt, Hazel Dormouse, reptiles and amphibians. Works under the method statement to be supervised by suitably qualified ecological clerk of works (ECoW). An endoscope is required the day before works start for the pole found to have bat roosting potential.
7. The Applicant consulted with the LPA in March 2026 who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 26/00221/ENQ). It concluded it was not an EIA development due to it being a minor development but that the proposed development must be in



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accordance with the mitigation measures outlined in the HRA and any changes must first be agreed upon with the LPA.

8. The Secretary of State notes the limited scale of the works, and localised nature of any impacts and that the proposed development is a like for like replacement to existing infrastructure. The Secretary of State therefore considers that there are no likely significant effects arising from the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste or the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity and that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effect on the designated sites in which it is located.

Yours sincerely,

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