



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: 2436u
Your ref: JO/CHRI E10L5/Blackwater

02 June 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 E10L5/Blackwater

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 4 electricity wood pole structures as part of a 11kV, 355 metre 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 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 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 the following designated sensitive areas:
 - Moors River Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
4. Natural England was consulted regarding the designated sensitive area and granted assent to the development from the period between 1 September 2025 and 28 February 2025 based on the HRA submitted regarding the proposed development (Natural England reference: 0704251025AS).
5. In July 2025, the applicant produced an ecology survey to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised mitigations such as conducting three dusk emergence surveys and having an ecological clerk of works check for bird nests prior to any vegetation clearance no more than 24 hours before the work commence.
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who noted no objection to the proposed development (reference: P/25/03806/PDNOT) in January 2026. It concluded that the development is unlikely to result in a likely significant environmental effect and is not EIA development.
7. The Applicant contacted NE in February 2026 to inform them that they were unable to carry out the works within the assented period and noted their intention to complete the works from September 2026.



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The Applicant stated that no amendments are proposed to the scope of works or the environmental mitigation, NE did not respond.

Yours sincerely,

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