



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

John O'Reilly
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Our ref: 2457u
Your ref: JO/LYMI E4L5 Wainsford

3 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/LYMI E4L5 WAINSFORD

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 one wooden pole forming part of a 117 metre, 11kV 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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of 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 Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and New Forest National Park.
4. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and granted conditional assent for the development between 1 September 2026 and 28 February 2027 (reference: 0409251313LJ). This assent is subject to the condition that works are undertaken in line with the protocols set out in Natural England’s document ‘*Practical ways of working in The New Forest SSSI.*’
5. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development on 4 November 2025 (planning reference: 25/01103OHL).
6. The Applicant consulted the County Archaeologist, who confirmed on 11 November 2025 that there were no known heritage assets in area of works.
7. An ecology survey was conducted at the site of the proposed development on 17 February 2026, and the subsequent “Preliminary Ecological Appraisal” was issued by Wessex Ecology. The survey identified that, with reference to Figure 2 (Upper Pennington Common) identified that deciduous woodland and scrub along the access route provided suitable habitat for nesting birds, and some vegetation clearance will be required to allow access. To mitigate ecological impacts, works should be undertaken in late summer or early autumn when ground conditions are drier and carried out outside the bird nesting season, ideally from 1 September onwards. Habitat around the pole was not considered for reptiles however, as a precaution, all



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excavations should be backfilled on the same day to reduce the risk of reptiles entering and becoming trapped. These mitigations are secured by condition 4 of the associated consent granted under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Yours sincerely,

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