



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2459u
Your ref: JO/LYMI E8L5 Kingfishers

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 E8L5 KINGFISHERS

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 67 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 Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Solent and Southampton Water Special Protected Area (SPA), Solent and Southampton Water Ramsar 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 31 December 2026 (reference: 0409251212MH). This assent is subject to the condition that any vegetation cleared for the works shall be cut and removed from site.
5. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development on 11 November 2025 (planning reference: 25/01162OHL).
6. The Applicant produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in September 2025 which provided details on the working method, risks to protected sites, and proposed mitigation measures.
7. An ecology survey was conducted at the site of the proposed development on 17 February 2026, and the subsequent “Preliminary Ecological Appraisal”. The survey at the time of survey identified that pole 6 is located in an area of boggy woodland. Scrub and woodland habitats along the route and surrounding the pole provide potential to support nesting birds. The pole also contains multiple woodpecker holes, which may offer suitable roosting or nesting features for birds and bats. 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. On the day of the pole



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removal, the woodpecker holes should be inspected for the presence of bats by the operative using a torch or endoscope. If a bat is identified, works on the pole should cease immediately and a suitably qualified ecologist contacted for further advice. The habitat at the base of the pole is not considered optimal for reptiles, however as a precaution, all 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.

8. Having considered the HRA, the Secretary of State is satisfied there will be no likely significant effects on any National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the scheduling of works during lesser sensitive periods for both the designated habitats and qualifying species, combined with the location of the works being situated on the periphery of the designated sites.

Yours sincerely,

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