



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

John O'Reilly
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/desn

Our ref: 2429u
Your ref: JO/WART E1L5 Holmbridge

18 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/WART E1L5 Holmbridge

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 Dorset Council LPA ("the LPA") for information.

Screening decision for a proposed development ("the proposed development") to:

- Replacement of 3 poles on an 11kV, 215m overhead line;



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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:
 - Worgret Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Bell Barrow Scheduled Monument
 - Ford Heath Registered Common Land
4. In June 2025, the applicant produced a Habitats Regulation Assessment to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The assessment advised that to limit likely significant effects on nesting birds and reptiles that the following mitigations be put in place. Schedule works for outside bird breeding season, a competent person to check for reptiles prior to starting works and all excavations to be closed the same day.
5. The Applicant contacted Natural England in October 2025 and they granted assent between the period of 1 October 2026 and 28 February 2027 (ref: 2406250730JT).
6. The Applicant consulted with county archaeologists in July 2025, who had no concerns over the works taking place close to, but not within, the scheduled monument.
7. The Applicant consulted with the LPA in August 2025 who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: P/STA/2025/04026). It concluded it was not an EIA development.
8. In December 2025, an ecology report was produced by ADAS on behalf of the applicant to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development (ref: BRT69105-1674 (00)). The survey advised mitigations such as Non-Licensed Method Statements (NLMS) to be



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

produced for Reptiles, Hazel Dormouse and badger, with an Ecological Clerk of Works present during works for species checks and compliance to the NLMS. A method statement for invasive species should be produced and adhered to.

9. 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