



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2428u
Your ref: JO/WART E1L5 Duck Hill

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/WART E1L5 Duck Hill

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

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

- Replacement of 1 pole on an 11kV, 109m 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:
 - Stokeford Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Dorset Heathlands Ramsar
 - Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Dorset Heaths Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
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 works should take place outside of bird breeding season.
5. The Applicant contacted Natural England in July 2025 and they granted unconditional assent between the period of 1 October 2026 and 28 February 2027 (ref: 2406251000LJ).
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA in January 2026 who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: P/STA/2025/04026). It concluded the works are not an EIA development.
7. 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, Sand lizard, Smooth Snake, Hazel Dormouse and Badger. Works under the method statement to be supervised by suitably qualified ecological clerk of works (ECoW). Excavations must be filled the same, covered overnight or left with a method of egress as the area is deemed suitable for reptiles.



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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