



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2431u
Your ref: JO/DUNB E2L5 Plaitford

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/DUNB E2L5 Plaitford

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 Test Valley LPA ("the LPA") for information.

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

- Replacement of 1 pole on an 11kV, 102m 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:
 - New Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Plaitford Common Registered Common Land
4. The Applicant contacted Natural England in November 2025 and they granted unconditional assent between the period of 1 April 2026 and 30 March 2027 (ref: 1311250758JT).
5. The Applicant consulted with the LPA in January 2026 who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 25/03043/OELS). It concluded it was not an EIA development.
6. In July 2025, the applicant produced an ecological appraisal to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised mitigations such as works to be undertaken outside of bird breeding season, all excavations to be back filled the same day and where possible plant machinery should work from the tarmac.
7. 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,



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
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