



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2458u
Your ref: JO/LYMI E7L5 Norleywood

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 E7L5 Norleywood

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 New Forest National Park LPA ("the LPA") for information.

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

- Replacement of 1 pole on an 11kV, 271m 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:
 - Norley Copse and Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - New Forest Ramsar
 - New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - New Forest National Park
4. In October 2025, the applicant produced a Habitats Regulation Assessment to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The assessment advised that they would seek assent from Natural England (NE) to start in August 2026 as the pole sits near a stream which is prone to flooding, and they would like an extended window to program works for dry weather.
5. The Applicant contacted Natural England in October 2025 and they granted assent between the period of 1 August 2026 and 28 February 2027 on the condition that if any breeding birds were identified in the area, then the works should be postponed until the end of the bird breeding season (ref: 1410251022MH).
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA in November 2025 who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 25/01259SCR). It concluded it was not an EIA development and would have no net loss of or impact upon the designated site.
7. In February 2026, the applicant produced an ecology report to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised mitigations such as works to be undertaken in late summer early autumn when conditions should be drier and a bat survey using an endoscope performed as the pole has bat roosting potential.



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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