



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2524u
Your ref: JO/LANG E6L5 Gins Farm

28 August 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/LANG E6L5 Gins Farm

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:



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

- Replacement of eight 11kV electricity wood poles on an existing overhead line approximately 2,263 metres.

Secretary of State considerations:

1. 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 New Forest National Park Authority ("the LPA"). In particular, in reaching her decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:
 - a) The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
 - b) 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.
 - c) The proposed development is located within the New Forest National Park, the North Solent SSSI, North Solent NNR, and the Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar.
 - d) The Applicant consulted the LPA, which reviewed the proposed development and on 11 March 2026, concluded that the proposal would not have any significant impact upon the integrity of the SSSI. The LPA also considered that the development would result in additional visual impacts beyond those already existing and accordingly raised no objection.
 - e) The Applicant consulted Natural England (NE) on 7 January 2026. NE reviewed the proposed development and accompanying Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), concurred with the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment, and confirmed that the proposed works would not adversely affect the integrity of the European site. NE raised no objections to the proposal and granted assent for the relevant works to be undertaken between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 (Reference: 0701261102NG).
 - f) An Ecological Constraints Report was prepared by RSK ADAS Limited on 20 May 2026. The report identified that the poles are located within an area of modified grassland, bramble scrub, hedgerows and trees, with numerous ponds and watercourses in the surrounding area. These habitats provide suitable habitat for Great Crested Newts, reptiles, nesting birds, bats, badgers and hazel dormice. No evidence of protected species



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

was recorded during the survey; however, precautionary mitigation measures were recommended due to the presence of suitable habitat and the ecological connectivity of the wider landscape. The proposed pole replacement works are unlikely to result in significant ecological harm provided the mitigations set out in the Ecological Constraints Report (reference: BRT69105-1728 (00)) are implemented.

2. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing infrastructure. Having considered the evidence and proposed mitigations the Secretary of State is satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there will be no Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site.

Yours sincerely,

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