



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2492u
Your ref: DM/BRUT E4L5 Cogley Wood SSSI

28 August 2026

Dear Mr Montague,

**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: PS007765 - BRUTON E4L5

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:

- Replace one wooden pole as part of an 11 kV 35 metre 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 Somerset Council ("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 sensitive areas:
 - Cogley Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
4. Natural England was consulted regarding the designated sensitive area and granted assent to the development from the period between 1 January 2027 and 1 January 2028 (Natural England reference: NE 0402260845JC).
5. In June 2026, ADAS produced an ecology survey on behalf of the applicant to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised mitigations such as conducting an endoscope inspection or emergence survey before removing the pole.
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who noted no objection to the proposed development (reference: 26/00257/OSUC) on 18 August 2026.

Yours sincerely,

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