Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Andy Jackson
Southern Electric Power Distribution
Edward Close,
Houndstone Business Park,
Yeovil,
BA22 8RU

Our ref: 2548u
Your ref: APJ/Bruto/167

9 September 2026

Dear Mr Jackson,

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: Pole Replacement Works, Bruton Railway Cutting SSSI, Bruton

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 Somerset Council ("the LPA") for information.

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

- Replace 2 electricity wood poles and associated stays on a 400v, 70m 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 her 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:

    - Bruton Railway Cutting Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

4. The Applicant consulted with county archaeologists in April 2026 who advised that there were no archaeological issues with the proposed work.
5. The Applicant consulted Natural England in April 2026, who granted unconditional assent between the period of 1 September 2026 and 28 February 2027 (ref: 1604260903LJ).
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA in June 2026 who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 26/01378/OSUC). It concluded the works are not an EIA development.
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,

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