Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Ellie Dunn
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC
Walton Road
Drayton
Portsmouth
PO6 1UJ

Our ref: 2583u
Your ref: ED/ POCH E1L5 - Portsdown SSSI - P16303

25 September 2026

Dear Ms Dunn,

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: POCH E1L5 - PS006298

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 2 poles and 4 stays as part of a 11kV, 123 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 Fareham Borough 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:

    - Portsdown Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

4. Natural England was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and granted unconditional assent to the development from the period between 1 April 2027 and 1 April 2028 based on the method statement submitted by the Applicant (Natural England reference: 0708261131NG).
5. In August 2026, ADAS produced an ecological survey on behalf of the Applicant. The survey recommended mitigations such as undertaking vegetation clearance between September and February to avoid bird breeding season and surveying a pole for potential bat roosting features before removal between May and September.

6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who noted no objection to the proposed development in August 2026.

Yours sincerely,

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