

27 September 2024

Our ref: 0209241211JT



Alex Monk
Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SEN)

Thames Solent Team
Seacole Building 3rd Floor
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Alex

**LONGMOOR BOG SSSI
WORKS RELATING TO THE LIKE-FOR-LIKE REPLACEMENT OF TWO (2)
ELECTRICITY WOOD POLE STRUCTURES AND ASSOCIATED STAYS
SUPPORTING CROWTHORNE (CROW) E10L5 CIRCUIT NEAR WOKINGHAM.
ASSENT PROVIDED WITH CONDITIONS UNDER SECTION 28H OF THE
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)**

Natural England assents to the operations as specified in your notice of 2 September 2024 as attached at Annex 1 (the "Notice"), but **subject to strict adherence with the following conditions:**

Conditions:

1. All vegetation/cuttings or arisings must be removed off site to prevent impacts from nutrification, change in temperature and light levels.
2. The works must be carried out when the ground is sufficiently dry to ensure vehicle use does not cause damage to the soil surface

Timing of the specified operations:

Natural England advises that, provided that the above conditions are met, the operations should not cause significant damage to the special interest of the SSSI.

This assent covers the period **1 March 2025 to 1 September 2025**.

If you intend to carry out this operation otherwise than in accordance with the above conditions then, as required by Sections 28(5) and (6) of the 1981 Act you must first:

- Give notice to Natural England of when the proposed operation will start. The start date must not be sooner than 28 days from the date of this second notice;

- Give notice to Natural England of how, if at all, you have taken account of the advice of Natural England contained in this letter;
- Carry out the operation in such a way as to give rise to as little damage to the SSSI as is reasonably practicable, taking account in particular of the advice contained in this letter; and
- Restore the site to its former condition, so far as is reasonably practicable, if any damage does occur.

In addition, you are under a duty under section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of your authority's functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the SSSI.

Acting in accordance with this new assent will enable **Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN)** to carry out the operations in a way that is compatible with its section 28G duty to further the conservation and enhancement of the SSSI. Relying on any previous section 28H assent (or section 28E consent) for these same operations will now be less compatible with respect to fulfilling this duty and you may now wish to disregard these.

Please note the important information about this assent below.

Yours sincerely



Tajinder Lachhar
Nature Recovery Officer
Protected Sites Advice, Protected Sites Delivery Group

Important information about this assent

If you wish to change the proposed operations or their location or to carry out additional operations for which assent has not yet been provided, or if a time period set out above has expired, you must give further written notice to Natural England. Before doing so, you can seek advice from Natural England.

You may face enforcement action if you undertake operations which destroy, damage or disturb the notified features of special scientific interest.

Before undertaking the operations specified in this assent, you may also need to secure additional permissions from other authorities. For example, the assented operations might also require planning permission from the Local Planning Authority, a permit from the Environment Agency or a licence from the Forestry Commission. It is your responsibility, as the grantee of this assent, to ensure that no other permissions or consents, whether of a public or a private nature, are needed and, if any are needed, to acquire them before proceeding with the operations that you have proposed.

This is Natural England's assent only, and it does not allow you to undertake the specified operations without first having obtained all of the necessary permissions needed to undertake the operation lawfully. If you do not obtain all of the permissions you require, and carry out the work anyway, you may face enforcement action from other authorities or parties.

As the recipient of this assent, your authority is responsible for carrying out the operation(s) safely and in all ways according to the law.

This assent can only be relied upon by the section 28G authority to which it was issued. The operations specified in the assent can be carried out by contractors that are under instruction and supervision of the authority. However, this assent cannot be relied upon by other authorities, owners, occupiers or third parties.

Further information on public body responsibilities and obtaining (where necessary) approval for works on or near sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and your responsibilities regarding European sites can be found at this link:

[Sites of special scientific interest: public body responsibilities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sites-of-special-scientific-interest-public-body-responsibilities)

Notice of proposal to carry out an operation affecting a site of special scientific interest (SSSI)

Name of site of special scientific interest (SSSI):

Longmoor Bog SSSI

Name and address of public body or statutory undertaker:

Alex Monk – Network Designer

SSEN, Solent Park, Walton Road, Portsmouth, PO6 1UJ

Email address:

alex.monk@sse.com

Phone number:

07767850538

[I/We] give notice to Natural England under Section 28H(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended and inserted by section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) of [my/our] proposal to carry out the operations specified below in the exercise of [my/our] functions and on the land as specified below.

Operation and land details

Continue on separate sheet if necessary or attach additional information or documents.

Specified operations (summary of proposal):

The like-for-like replacement of a Two (2) electricity wood pole structures and associated stays supporting Crowthorne (CROW) E10L5 circuit nr. Wokingham requiring vehicle access and excavation within Longmoor Bog SSSI.

Details of proposed operations:

Prior to work commencing on any structure on the section of the Crowthorne (CROW) E10L5 11kV overhead line, it will be isolated and earthed in conformity to SSEN policy. A permit to work will be issued to the supervisor in charge of the works.

Access to P899 + P900 will be gained via the public bridleway northeast of Longmoor Bog and enter into the SSSI directly under the overhead lines. (shown in purple dotted line on attached plan). Vehicle movement will be kept to a minimum while in SSSI site and one path will be used in and out to each pole to limit the area of ground disturbed.

The pole will be replaced using low ground pressure tracked vehicles and approved manual lifting techniques due to limited access for other vehicles. The new pole will be re-instated into the original poles holes where possible so to minimise any requirements for excavations. A small amount of excavation may be required around the base of the new poles & a new hole still may be required for the new pole as close as possible to the original hole. Upon completion all redundant materials including the old poles will be removed from site for disposal. Reinstatement of the ground around the pole and along the access route can then be carried out to ensure the site is left clean and tidy to all parties' satisfaction. SSEN Linesman/approved contractors will be performing the poles changes.

Timing of proposed operations (including avoidance of certain weather conditions):

It is Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks aspiration to conduct the pole work during the 24/25 financial year. The works are anticipated to last approximately 2-days.

In this, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks should like to seek Assent for the works for the period 1st March 2025 to 1st September 2025.

Land on which operations are to be carried out (include map):

(See attached plan) on CROW E10L5 11kv Circuit

P899 – SU7810565406 what.3.words: ///magical.zinc.mailing

P900 – SU7806365302 what.3.words: ///gashes.fond.eyelash

Storage and disposal of materials:

Materials will be stored and disposed off site where required.

Precise routing of operations and vehicles:

(See attached Plan)

The pole locations will be accessed as per the attached plan. Access across Longmoor Bog SSSI will utilise the clearing in vegetation directly under the 11kv line. No other

access routes lead to poles. Staff will gain access to the pathway on the northeast of Longmoor Bog which is vehicle accessible and will have to remove up to two fence panels leading into the SSSI site where the overhead lines intersect the path (shown in plan).

Frequency of access:

Access required for up to Two (2) days of work & any future fault repair if required.

The provenance and chemical nature of imported materials:

Wood pole replacements will be Creosote wood poles to ensure maximum lifespan and reduced need to re-visit SSSI to replace the poles. No other chemicals will be brought onto site.

Type and ground-pressure of vehicles to be deployed:

The following plant will be used to deliver the pole replacements (where access permits):

- Low ground pressure tracked mini digger
- Tracked MEWP (up to 3.5 ton)

Other SSSEN/Contractor support vehicles e.g. Land Rover (or equivalent) will be present on site during the works where vehicle access provides, but the minimum of absolutely required vehicle will be on SSSI during works.

Mitigation measures:

The site has been identified as being within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Through this document Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is seeking Assent from Natural England for the ecological mitigation proposed to enable this work to proceed. Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks staff/contractors will be fully briefed on the environmental/geological issues and will conduct works so as to have a minimum impact on the interest features as possible.

- Works vehicles will remain on the access ways where possible when crossing the SSSI. Once off existing access ways vehicles will utilise direct routes to the poles causing as little disturbance as possible, following the route under the lines as vegetation is at its lowest.
- Any works vehicles crossing the SSSI or working in proximity to the SSSI boundary will carry oil/fuel spill kits in the event of oil/fuel leaks to ground as a result of mechanical failure.
- Refuelling of vehicles/machinery will take place off the SSSI and well away from the SSSI boundary.
- Excavation of the ground around the poles/stays will be conducted carefully

ensure that the different layers of soil (turf/top soil/sub soil) are kept separated. The separated soil will be placed on a ground sheet adjacent to the pole hole in readiness for reinstatement in the correct order.

- No excavations will be left open overnight.

Further information:

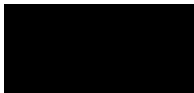
Stage1 risk assessment will be produced to identify & control the hazards before any works commence (a copy will be held by the construction team on site).

Stage 2 risk assessment will be produced so as to be site specific (this will be held by the construction team on site).

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks staff/contractors are trained to recognise the importance of keeping a safe and tidy site and would be aware of their obligations to themselves and to others in relation to the Health and Safety at Work Act. This includes the fact that they may not be working in ideal conditions. Appropriate Safety Equipment will be worn at all times. Details and directions to the nearest A&E Hospital will be provided.

Signed by on behalf of public body / statutory undertaker:

Alex Monk , SSEN Network Designer



Date:

02/09/2024

Using and sharing your information

The Data Controller is Natural England. For further information on how we process your personal information please see the sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) privacy notice at www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-england-privacy-notice.

Legend

- Segments [Electric]**
- Cable Segment.HV Route - 11.00 kV, Existing
 - Joint Installation.EHV Location - O/H Connector, Existing
 - Joint Installation.HV Location - Pole Termination, Existing
 - Joint Installation.HV Location - O/H Connector, Existing
 - Line Segment.EHV Route - 132.0 kV, Existing
 - Line Segment.HV Route - 11.00 kV, Existing
- Distribution Structures [Electric]**
- Stay.Existing Location - Unknown
 - Pole Structure.Existing Location - Single
 - Pole Structure.Existing Location - H
 - Duct.Route
- Transmission Structures [Electric]**
- Tower.Existing Location - SSEN
- Substation Site [Electric]**
- Substation.Existing Location - Pole Mounted Distribution
- Common [Electric]**
- Schematic Connector.MV Pin1 - Blue Circle
 - Schematic Connector.MV Pin1 - Green Circle
 - Span.HV Existing Route
 - BPA - Pipeline Location
 - BPA - Pipeline Buffer Zone

Access Route 'A' to P899 + P900 following clearance section under power line

VOLTAGES (V)				
(Low Voltage) and Services	up to 1,000V			
(High Voltage)	over 1,000V to 11,000V			
(Extra High Voltage)	22,000V to 132,000V			
Transmission	275,000V and 400,000V			
NORMAL DEPTH TO THE TOP OF THE CABLE WHEN LAID				
	Services	LV	HV	EHV
FOOTPATH/UNMADE	0.45m	0.45m	0.6m	0.8m
ROAD CROSSING	0.6m	0.6m	0.75m	0.9m
AGRICULTURAL	1m	1m	1m	1.1m

WARNING

There may have been subsequent alterations to the surface levels. Trial holes must be taken to determine positions and depths of cables. HS (S) 47 Booklet from the Health and Safety Executive - Avoiding Danger from Buried Cables - should be consulted before commencing excavation work.
WHEN WORKING IN THE VICINITY OF OVERHEAD LINES THE HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDANCE NOTE G56 SHOULD BE CONSULTED (AVAILABLE FROM THE HSE WEBSITE)

If you are unsure & need to seek advice before commencing excavations please contact;

General Enquiries 0800 048 3516

Southern Electric Power Distribution plc
Registered Office: No.1 Fortbury Place
43 Fortbury Road Reading RG1 3JH
Registered in England & Wales No.04094290

Subject to revision - Master held by SSEN Distribution Asset Data Team:
Asset.Data@sse.com 01256 337 294

BASED UPON THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH THE SANCTION OF THE CONTROLLER OF
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED.
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Will have to remove fence panel to access SSSI site from pathway
what.3.words: ///timidly.reserving.quitter

