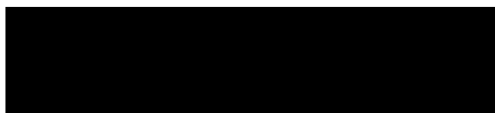


Chief Planning Officer
Hart District Council
Civic Offices
Planning Services
Fleet
GU51 4AE

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
Aldershot Depot
Lower Weybourne Lane
Farnham
Surrey
GU99HP

Our Ref: EVT315

02/01/2224



Dear Sir / Madam

**The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017
Request for a Screening Opinion
The relocation of an existing High Voltage Electricity Pole and Stay Wire and the diversion of the
existing Overhead High Voltage Cable.**

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) are proposing to relocate an existing High Voltage Electricity Pole and Stay Wire and divert the existing Overhead High Voltage Electricity Cable by installing a section of the Overhead Network Underground within the Thames Basin Heath, Hazely Heath, Hook, Hampshire, this is required to allow for an ongoing development at Hatts Cottage.

The required works will fall under Schedule 2 as it will be installed above ground in a sensitive area the installation of which (or the keeping installed of which) will require a Section 37 consent but is not Schedule 1 development. Please accept this as a formal request for a screening opinion from the DESNEZ/Local Planning Authority regarding our proposals.

Construction

- a) To excavate and reinstate cable trenches between poles 24058 and 24060 for new underground high voltage and low voltage cable we will lay blind and tape cables.
- b) To excavate and install 2 new back stays and 2 new wooden poles to replace existing poles in the same location all excavated material will be used to backfill.
- c) To carry out shutdowns / energization to electrical circuits as necessary to facilitate the works.
- d) Overhead linesmen utilizing climbing spikes/ladders and MEWP to carry out installation of overhead cabling from Pole 24058 to Pole 24060.
- e) Hiab lorry to enter site from track on client's land to install new poles 24058 and 24060 and remove poles and redundant overhead cables as per the design document attached. Fence to be removed with landowners' agreement to allow access in to SSSI to install new Pole, ground boards to be used to minimize disturbance reversing in and driving out all ground to be made good with fence re-erected.
- f) Hiab/MEWP vehicles and teams will only access Pole 24058 only once to install new Pole, terminate the overhead line and connect cable to minimize any disturbance all excavated material will be used to backfill pole and stay holes with no imported material access route shown on attachment.

- g) Mini excavator to enter site from the track on client's land to excavate back stays and Pole holes at locations Pole 24058 and pole 24060.
- h) Lay cabling in accordance with SSE design requirements, sand, tape & backfill utilising as dug materials in accordance with item c) of section 3.4 of this document.
- i) Clear and leave site.

Excavation and Reinstatement

- a) All materials excavated by machine/hand shall be lifted and stored separately in the correct order according to turf/vegetation, topsoil and subsoil.
- b) All excavated materials are to be stored on Terram or similar sheeting to protect the vegetation and ground underneath.
- c) All materials excavated shall be returned to the position from which it is taken in the correct order (if clay is encountered within excavations this will be removed from site and replaced with a suitable alternative due to nature of the works reinstatement of clay within the excavation is not permissible)
- d) Excavated material is not to be placed in adjacent ditches or on adjacent banks (note these are particularly important ecologically and must not be disturbed).
- e) Excavations within or under the canopy of trees shall be made using hand tools only.
- f) Care should be taken to ensure that tree roots are not cut or injured.
- g) Any excavation is to be thoroughly compacted on reinstatement to minimize settlement.
- h) Any hole or excavation left open temporarily shall be adequately fenced to protect commoners' stock and members of the public from injury.
- i) Where the access track is disturbed, the materials excavated shall be lifted and stored separately in the correct order according to base material or sub-base and running surface.
- j) For excavation within the track, excavated material will be always contained within the boundary of the track and not be permitted to spill onto the vegetation either side of the track.

Environmental Effects and Landscape

The site is notified by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Hazeley Heath is also notified as a part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) for its heathland bird interest, with three species being internationally protected by European legislation. Natural England has been consulted about the scheme (Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)) to ensure that appropriate mitigation is employed to protect the designated features. The equipment being installed will be of the same construction as the existing equipment and will be located in the position of the existing equipment but will require the overhead equipment to be upgraded and there will however be an installation of a new underground cable to provide the required supply.

Population

The relocation of this equipment on this section of overhead network is required due to an ongoing Development. Care will be taken to replace/divert/relocate the existing equipment sympathetically keeping mind the practical need to maintain electricity supplies and the need to improve the overall impact on the area. It is not expected that the replacement/diversion/relocation to the equipment will have any direct impact on the local population other than the presence of our construction teams for the duration of the works. Every endeavor will be made to ensure that disturbance to the working of the land and other economic activity is minimized. The works will directly affect 1 registered land title holders and consents in the form of a Wayleave Agreement have been gained from both this party.

Flora & Fauna

Natural England has been consulted about the scheme and through dialogue we are currently waiting to be granted Assents in the form of an Assent of Natural England Under Section 28H of the Wild Life and Countryside Act 1981 for the works to proceed. We are happy to work with Natural England to accommodate as reasonably as possible their requirements and in this regard have agreed specific timings and access routes to minimize disturbance to the aforementioned features. Should any amendment to the method statement for these works be necessary we will maintain an open dialogue with Natural England to enable them to make further comment on our proposals.

Soil

Low ground pressure vehicles will be used during the works and access will be affected along routes previously agreed with landowners/occupiers to ensure there is minimum disturbance. Existing tracks and access gates will be used.

Water

There are not anticipated to be any effects on water courses as a result of these upgrades.

Air and Climatic Factors

The overhead line will have no direct effects on air quality or climatic factors.

Material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage

There have been no architectural and archaeological assets uncovered during any site visits.

Landscape

The site is notified by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Hazeley Heath is also notified as a part of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) for its heathland bird interest, with three species being internationally protected by European legislation. The SSSI/SPA boundary is very similar but not identical to the registered common boundary. The site straddles a long ridge, orientated northwest to southeast between the valleys of the Rivers Hart and Whitewater, with the B3011 running along its western side. Parts of the site have been cleared and/or heavily disturbed in the past, particularly by gravel and sand extraction, landfill and military training. Undisturbed areas are underlain by various sands, gravels and clays that are generally acidic in nature and are characteristic of heathland soils. The main habitats present on Hazeley Heath are lowland heathland with areas of gorse and bracken, secondary woodland and grassland. Some woodland areas near the edges are well established and there are substantial boundary trees. Although once covering much of the site, heathland now only extends over about 37 ha. This is the most important habitat present and supports a variety of rare plants and wildlife. Most of the secondary woodland has developed relatively recently on heathland and largely consists of common and widespread species. Hazeley Heath contains a diverse range of habitats and different plant communities within these habitats, reasonable structural diversity of the vegetation and a large variety of wildlife species present, including eight Red Data Book species and a further fifty-eight recognized as Nationally Notable. The nature conservation value is enhanced by the presence of other heathland and woodland in the area.

There will be no change in the visual impact on the landscape or the amenity value of the area.

A Form B of Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and accompanying plans of the selected pole relocation has been sent to for consideration alongside this EIA Screening Opinion.

Yours faithfully

Paul Roberts
Connections Consenting Officer