DELEGATED REPORT

Application Reference:	PL/2023/10532
Application Type:	Circular 14/90 - Electricity Overhead Lines notification
Site Address:	The Sawmills, Thingley, Corsham, Wilts, SN13 9QL.
Proposal:	New electricity connection - installing a new wood pole, overhead cable and underground cable.
Recommendation:	No Objection.

PROPOSAL

The request is for approximately 5m of overhead electricity cable from an existing wood pole to a proposed new wood pole within the grass verge which forms part of the highway maintainable at public expense. From the new wood pole ~30m of underground cable is to be installed to connect SSEN's customer's property. SSEN's customer's proposal is to install a new overhead service cable from the existing wood pole, from which there is already one existing overhead supply. The addition of this service will therefore make the line a multi-user line and it will no longer be exempt from Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 under The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

This is not an application for planning permission, it is merely a request for comments from the Local Planning Authority.

CONSULTATION

One representation was received during consultation from Corsham Town Council, which raised no objection.

ASSESSMENT

The proposal involves the installation a new overhead service cable from the existing wood pole, from which there is already one existing overhead supply. The proposal will include approximately 5m of overhead electricity cable from an existing wood pole to a proposed new wood pole within the grass verge which forms part of the highway maintainable at public expense. From the new wood pole ~30m of underground cable is to be installed to connect SSEN's customer's property. The addition of this service will therefore make the line a multi-user line and it will no longer be exempt from Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 under The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.

Consents for the construction of overhead lines with a nominal voltage of less than 132 kilovolts or that are less than 2 kilometres in length are regulated by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) under the provisions of section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. Development consent is needed for all but the most minor lines in England and Wales - see 'The Overhead Lines (Exemption) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009'. According to the letter and plans submitted to the Council, the proposal relates to lines with a voltage of less than 132 kilovolts and that is less than 2 kilometres in length.

Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 sets out that, with certain exceptions, consent must be obtained for installing and maintaining any electric lines above ground (overhead lines). The

Planning Act 2008 introduced a threshold for development consent for overhead lines of 132kV or greater to be considered as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and consent for these NSIPs would be determined under the Planning Act regime, rather than the Electricity Act 1989.

These thresholds have also since been updated which provides two categories of electric line installation that are no longer considered NSIPs. However, according to the application form and plans submitted, the proposals would be under the threshold to require development consent under the Planning Act. As such, it is appropriate for the proposal to be determined under Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 as per the application rather than the Planning Act.

No objections have been received and Wiltshire Council have no objection to the proposal.

CONCLUSION

No objections be raised.