



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Mr James Neil
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Our ref: 1572U
Your ref: EUN985

30 January 2023

Dear Mr Neil,

**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: EU985 Brockwood House

Screening decision for a proposed development (“the proposed development”) to:

- Replace and upgrade a 11kv overhead electricity line of approximately 80 metres;
- The removal of the existing wooden poles and the installation of new poles of similar structure and size.

The proposed development requires Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and are subject to the 2017 Regulations.

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 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”), represented by Dalcour Maclaren, in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of South Downs National Park Authority (“the LPA”).



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In particular, 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 is to remove the existing overhead line and replace it with a new, upgraded 3 phase line;
4. The existing line and proposed development are within the South Downs National Park (“SDNP”). SDNP has been designated a National Park due to its outstanding natural beauty. However, as the Applicant is to replace and upgrade an existing line in the same location, the LPA did not consider there to be any significant impact on the area (LPA Screening Officer report dated 5 April 2022).
5. Winchester City Council’s archaeologist was consulted and raised no concerns about potential archaeological impacts arising from the proposed works (email dated 6 April 2022);
6. Natural England responded to the Applicant on 19 May 2022 and raised no concerns, however advised that South Downs National Park authority. However, the Applicant had already made contact with the South Downs National Park Authority, who in their response of 25 April 2022 raised no concerns.
7. There are a number of Grade 1 and 2 listed buildings to the south and west of the line in the village of Droxford. The nearest is a Grade 2 listed building approximately 440 metres away. Further south is the scheduled monument ‘Long barrow in the grounds of Long Barrow House’ which is approximately 948 metres away from the line.
8. The Application does not suggest there will be any cumulative adverse effects given that the proposed works are to upgrade the existing line and there are no other known proposed or existing developments in the area near the proposed works;
9. The LPA considered that having screened the proposed works, the characteristics of the development together with the level of environmental risk, any resultant impact is considered to be limited as the proposal comprises repairs to existing apparatus and equipment. The LPA therefore does not warrant the submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment and does not consider the proposed works to be an EIA development (Form B dated 9 May 2022, and screening opinion letter dated 25 April 2022).

Taking account of the abovementioned factors and information received, 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



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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.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Consents
Energy Infrastructure Planning