



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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Our ref: 1672u

Your ref: ALDE/PR/EVT315

10 July 2023

Dear Mr Roberts,

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: Land on west side of Bumpkins Cottage, 2 Railway
Cottages, Normans Bay, Pevensey, BN24 6PY**

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

- Upgrade two sections of existing overhead cable from 2 wires to 3 wires, and:
- Upgrade the existing single pole mounted transformer to an H pole mounted transformer.

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

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 the Hart District Council (“the LPA”). 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).



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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 Hazeley Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Thames Basic Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) and as such Natural England were consulted for their views.
4. After reviewing the Applicant's Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) (Document reference: 3108221659FG), Natural England granted their assent for the proposed development on 15 September 2022.
5. The LPA were consulted, and their Biodiversity Officer concluded that due to the minimal and temporary nature of the impact of the proposed development, the management and mitigation detailed in the HRA is sufficient to mitigate any impact on the protected species in the area. As such, the LPA raised no objection to the proposed development.

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 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