



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

James Cole  
South Eastern Power Networks PLC  
Court Lodge Farm Office  
Canterbury  
CT4 7DT

**Energy Infrastructure Planning**  
Level 3, Victoria 1  
1 Victoria Street,  
London  
SW1H 0ET  
**Email:** S37consents@beis.gov.uk  
**Website:** www.gov.uk/beis

Our ref: 1722u  
Your ref: 105120-554

5 July 2023

Dear Mr Cole,

**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:

- Remove 5 spans of overhead line including 4 poles, and:
- Replace 1 pole and install a pole mounted transformer, and:
- Replace and divert the low voltage line to remove safety issues related to climbable trees under the lines.

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 South Eastern Power Networks PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of the Rother 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).

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 Pevensey Levels Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ramsar site, and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and as such Natural England were consulted for their views.
4. After reviewing the Applicant's Habitats Regulation Assessment (Document reference: BXT69105-1499), Natural England concluded that there would be no likely significant effect on the SSSI/SAC/Ramsar site and granted their assent for the proposed development on 29 March 2023.
5. The LPA were consulted and concluded that the proposed development would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and that, due to the reduction in visible infrastructure, the proposed development would result in a benefit and improvement to the visual character and appearance of the area.

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