



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1729u  
Your ref: EUE196

6 September 2023

Dear Miss Pain,

**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: Viola Hill**

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

- Upgrade existing pole-mounted transformer from 15kVA to 50kVA to allow existing 3 spans of single service overhead line to provide a second service

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 South Downs National Park Authority (“the LPA”). In particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:



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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 South Downs National Park and within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) related to the Wealden Edge Hangers SSSI.
4. The LPA were consulted and had no objection to the proposed development.
5. Natural England were consulted regarding the SSSI IRZ and had no comment to make on 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