



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Ben Thomas
Via email

Energy Infrastructure Planning

Level 3, Victoria 1
1 Victoria Street,
London
SW1H 0ET

Email:

S37consents@energysecurity.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 1477U
Your ref: EPH721 - Hatherden Farm

September 2023

Dear Mr Thomas,

**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: EPH721 – Hatherden Farm

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

- Construct two new towers supporting a 132 kilovolt (kv) overhead electricity line connecting Hatherden solar farm to the grid.

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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Test Valley District Council (“the LPA”). In reaching her decision, the Secretary of State notes the following factors:



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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 outside of statutory and non-statutory conservation areas. The Secretary of State notes that the applicant provided a copy of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and the Habitat Enhancement Scheme (HES) which accompanied the planning application for the solar farm site, which the Section 37 application for the two towers applies. Neither the PEA or HES raised any environmental concerns with regards to the proposed development. The Secretary of State notes that Hampshire Council passed comment about the flight of birds and bats around the overhead wires. Having considered both the PEA and HES, the Secretary of State notes the requirements of the developer to carry out surveys of the birds following completion of the development and considers this to be satisfactory.

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 Planning
Energy Infrastructure Planning