



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1680u
Your ref: 33NI Thatcham to Riverside

22 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: 33NI Thatcham to Riverside

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

- Replace eleven poles in an existing 33kV overhead line

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 West Berkshire Council (“the LPA”). 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 development is located within the Thatcham Reed Beds Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
4. The applicant consulted with Natural England (NE) and produced them with a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). NE granted assent for the work and is satisfied that the mitigation measures noted in the HRA are not likely to cause any significant environmental impact to the area.
5. The LPA was consulted and consider that the development would not cause significant adverse impact to the sensitive area. Furthermore, the LPA's archaeology department was consulted and did not suggest any mitigations or monitoring 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 Planning Team

Energy Infrastructure Planning