



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1769u  
Your ref: C7273

15th December 2023

Dear Mr Hounsell,

**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:** Pembury, Romford Road

**Decision:**

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.

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

- Upgrade an existing single phase 6Kv overhead line to a three phase 11Kv line. Installing 2, 11Kv pad mount substations.

Secretary of State considerations:

The Secretary of State has considered the factors set out in Schedule 3 of the 2017 Regulations, together with the information within the supplied



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documentation (“the Application”) by Southeastern Power Networks PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Authority (“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 High Weald, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
4. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and had no objections.
5. Natural England were consulted on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (Natural England ref: 442602) regarding the proposed development, they confirmed that the development is not close to a Habitats Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or protected landscape and had no comments.
6. The proposed development is a modification to an existing infrastructure which is likely to have minimal visual impact on the AONB in which it is situated.
7. On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, ADAS issued the report ‘Ecology Survey and Recommendations’ (Ref. 1050006 - SPN - BXT69105-1679 (00) on behalf of the Applicant. The report, based on the findings of a site survey carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023, outlined a number of recommendations which will mitigate the environmental risks identified.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna  
Head of Network Planning team  
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