



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Lucy Davies
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Via email

Energy Infrastructure Planning

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Our ref: 1702U
Your ref: Love Lane E8L5 - 11NI

14 September 2023

Dear Ms Davies,

**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: Love Lane E8L5 – 11NI

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

- Replace two existing poles on a ‘like for like basis’ supporting an existing 11 kilovolt (KV) overhead electricity line, and;
- Installing one new support pole.

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 particular, in reaching her decision, the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

1. The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);



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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 within Snelsmore Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (“the SSSI”) and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (“the AONB”) as well as being located near to Snelsmore Common Country Park and an area of ancient woodland.
4. The applicant informed both the LPA and Natural England about the development. The LPA commented that the nature of the development meant that it would not significantly impact on either the SSSI or AONB. Natural England had originally asked that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) be written by the applicant which then needed to be approved. This was required to protect the SSSI from any potential damage during the construction. The applicant submitted a CEMP detailing how the works will be carried out. Natural England subsequently informed the LPA that their original condition had now been discharged.

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