



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Christopher Brocklehurst
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC
Arrowhead Road
Theale
Reading
RG7 4AH

Energy Infrastructure Planning

3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email:

S37consents@energysecurity.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 1743u
Your ref: Reading/EWK671

10 January 2024

Dear Mr Brocklehurst,

**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: Fishponds, West Woodhay, Berkshire

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 approximately 160 metres of existing 11kV overhead line from 2-phase to 3-phase and upgrade/reinforce the existing pole-mounted transformer.

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 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 West Berkshire Council (“the LPA”). In reaching her 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 North Wessex Downs National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with several SSSIs, the nearest of which – West Woodhay Down – is approximately 1.6km from the proposed development.
4. The LPA were consulted regarding the proposed development and concluded that the proposed development would not significantly impact the sensitive area due to its nature and scale.
5. The LPA consulted with Natural England regarding the SSSI IRZ, Natural England had no comments on the proposed development.
6. The Applicant consulted the North Wessex Downs National Landscape unit which confirmed in communications on 18 December 2023 that there were no concerns regarding the proposed development.
7. The proposed development is a modification to existing infrastructure which is likely to have minimal visual impact on the National Landscape in which it is situated.

Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
Head of Network Planning team
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team