



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Mrs Nisha Patel  
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Our ref: 1703u  
Your ref: 105164-046

13 March 2024

Dear Mrs Patel,

**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: FURNANCE LANE, WARBLETON.**

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 490m 240/415v line with aerial bundling cable and replace 11 poles



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### 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 UK Power Networks (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Wealden District 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);
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 following sensitive areas:
  - High Weald National Landscape; formerly known as High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
  - A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with St Dunstan’s Farms Meadow SSSI
4. Natural England was consulted via email regarding the SSSI IRZ and responded on 3 December 2022, noting there were no comments regarding the development.
5. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 13 December 2022 (reference: WD/2022/3000/OH). Furthermore, the LPA produced a report stating, “the refurbishment of the existing line, as shown on the submitted plan and detailed in the provided application particulars, would not result in any significant adverse impact on the environment or the landscape character of the AONB... Accordingly, it is deemed to not be Schedule 2 development.” (reference: WD/2022/3000/OH).
6. The Secretary of State requested the applicant to consult the High Weald AONB Unit on 28 June 2023. The AONB Unit noted no objection on 23 February 2024 but requested for further information regarding the methodology to be used in carrying out the works, such as temporary ground reinforcement and using only light machinery.
7. On 27 February 2024, the applicant submitted their methodology to the AONB Unit proposing that, “Ground conditions will be considered when planning the works and matting (or other suitable reinforcement) will be used for protection where necessary... will seek to keep vehicles to a



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minimum but will need to use the appropriate vehicles to carry out the works safely.”.

8. On 8 March 2024, the AONB Unit confirmed they were satisfied with the applicant’s methodology.

Yours sincerely,

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