



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1931u
Your ref: EVE305

31 July 2024

Dear Mrs Wallace,

**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: Bytham Farm

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 960 metres of existing 11kV overhead from 2-phase to 3-phase.
- Replace 7 x existing poles and install a new intermediate pole with pole-mounted transformer and 2 x stays.



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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 Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Wiltshire 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 proposed development falls within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding National Beauty) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the River Kennet SSSI which is more than 2.5km from the proposed development.
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: PL/2024/01832) and concluded that EIA is not required as the proposed development would not result in any significant environmental effects.
5. The Applicant consulted with Natural England who confirmed in communications on 11 June 2024 (Natural England reference: 478261) that they had no comment to make on the proposed development.
6. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and 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