



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Ms Kayleigh Downs
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Our ref: 1948u
Your ref: ewp213/2

27 August 2024

Dear Ms Downs,

**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: WINTERBOURNE ARMS

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:

- Install a new 100kVA pole mounted transformer on an existing 11kV pole
- Upgrade 30m of 11kV overhead line to 3 phase



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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 (“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 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 a designated sensitive area:
 - North Wessex Downs National Landscape
 - A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Snelsmore Common SSSI
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who submitted no objection to and concluded that the proposed development is not an EIA development on 25 April 2024 (planning reference: 24/00319/FORMB).
5. The Applicant consulted with Natural England regarding the SSSI IRZ designation. On 6 March 2024, Natural England responded with no comments regarding the 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 located.

Yours sincerely,

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