



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Nicholas A Luffman
Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC
New Forest Depot
Minstead
Lyndhurst
SO43 7PE

Energy Infrastructure Planning

3-8 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2JP

Email:

S37consents@energysecurity.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/desnz

Our ref: 1907u
Your ref: NL 33NI 324016 MIDH-HASL

7 October 2024

Dear Mr Luffman,

**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: MIDH-HASL 33NI

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:

- Replace 5 x wood poles on an existing 33kV overhead line



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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 South Downs National Park Authority (“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 South Downs National Park, and Ambersham Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development and concluded that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effects on the environment as the works will be localised, pre-existing access tracks will be used and although the machinery used is likely to result in minor disruption to any understory growth present, this will not be of material consequence to the SSSI (references: SDNP/24/010409/OHL & SDNP/24/01066/SCREEN).
5. The Applicant supplied a Method Statement to Natural England (dated 1 February 2024) which outlined the methods and mitigations to be used throughout the proposed development including, but not limited to, carrying out the works outside of bird and reptile breeding seasons, and checks by a competent person of vegetation along access routes and work areas to ensure breeding birds/reptiles are not present. As a result, Natural England issued assent on 12 February 2024 for the proposed development to be carried out between 1 October 2024 and 28 February 2025 (reference: 0102240824EA).

Yours sincerely,

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