



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1990u
Your ref: 105164-064/Bedgebury Pinetum/sk12/P2

8 October 2024

Dear Mr Barrell,

**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: Bedgebury Pinetum – Mid-section

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:

- Uprate 6-spans (approximately 670 metres) of existing 6.6kV overhead line to 11kV. One 11kV pole-mounted transformer will be added to pole 246205 – no other modification is necessary.



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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 South Eastern Power Networks PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Tunbridge Wells Borough 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 High Weald National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding National Beauty) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) associated with the Combwell Wood SSSI which is approximately 1,500 metres from the proposed development.
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 23/02796/ELEC) and concluded EIA was not required due to the scale, nature, location and unlikelihood of any significant environmental effects.
5. The Applicant consulted with Natural England who confirmed in communications on 26 October 2023 that they had no comment to make on the proposed development (reference: 454433).
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