



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Your ref: FBS275

15th October 2024

Dear Mr Roberts

**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:

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:

- Upgrading 87m of an existing 11kV overhead line from two wire to three.



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- Upgrading the existing pole mounted transformer with a 200KVA 3 phase transformer with an additional pole being installed adjacent to the existing pole to form a H Pole construction.
- Poles may be replaced to support the new line & pole mounted transformer upon assessment.

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 (“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 the South Downs National Park.
4. The proposed development is located within the Selborne Priory Scheduled Monument.
5. The proposed development falls within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone associated with Coombe Wood and The Lythe SSSI.
6. The Applicant consulted the LPA and received a response from the LPA on 10 April 2024. The LPA’s opinion is that “the proposed works are relatively minor and would not have adverse impact on the landscape” “the proposed development is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment.”
7. The Applicant consulted Natural England (NE) on 4 March 2024. NE concluded, “the development is not close to or within a Habitats Site, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and had no comments to make on this consultation.”
8. The Applicant consulted Historic England on 4 March 2024. Historic England considers “the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be works which would not significantly diminish the visual amenity of the monument but could cause minor potential disturbance to buried archaeological deposits, which can be acceptably mitigated



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by safeguards specified on the Written Scheme of Investigation, and by conditions set out by Historic England (reference: S00246092), to ensure an appropriate level of archaeological supervision and recording.

9. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and not likely to have a significant effect on the Natural Landscape.

Yours sincerely

John McKenna
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