



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Paul Roberts  
Aldershot Depot  
Lower Weybourne Lane  
Farnham  
GU9 9HP

**Energy Infrastructure Planning**

3-8 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2JP

**Email:** S37consents  
@energysecurity.gov.uk  
**Website:** [www.gov.uk/desnz](http://www.gov.uk/desnz)

Our ref: 2023u  
Your ref: FAX980

18 December 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: LEA 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:

- Replace H pole in an existing 11kV overhead line
- Upgrade pole mounted transformer from 100kVA to 200kVA



## 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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Hart District 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 Hazeley Heath Registered Common Land, Hazeley Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development on 11 September 2024 (planning reference: 24/00974/OHL).
5. The Applicant produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in June 2024 which provided details on the working method, risks to protected sites, and proposed mitigation measures.
6. The Applicant consulted Natural England (NE) regarding the designated sensitive areas. NE granted assent to the development from the period between 1 September 2024 to 28 February 2025 (reference: 1505241604CG).
7. An Ecological walkover was carried out at the site of the proposed development in November 2024 and the subsequent “Ecological Impact Assessment” was issued on 20 November 2024 by AEWG Ltd (reference: 24-022-EclA-v1). The site walkover identified deciduous woodland and scrub habitats suitable for hazel dormice and widespread reptiles, as well as trees offering suitable nesting opportunities for birds. The assessment outlined several mitigation measures, including the requirement that vegetation or tree removal must be undertaken outside the breeding bird season. For minor vegetation clearance, it is recommended a phased approach, gradually cutting back scrub to encourage any animals present to move out of the works area. Additionally, to prevent soil compaction, storing materials within the woodland is to be avoided.
8. Having considered the HRA completed by the Applicant, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no likely significant effects on any



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the limited works to be carried out within the SPA which consists of minor vegetation clearance around the base of existing poles.

Yours sincerely,

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