



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 1854u
Your ref: 105164-059 - Walnut Cottage/SK12

22 January 2025

Dear Mr Cole,

**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: Walnut Cottage 3

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:

- Add a third wire to a 11kV 460 metre overhead line
- Replace a section of the line installing 6 poles and a new stay wire



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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 Ashford 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 Kent Downs National Landscape.
4. The LPA was consulted regarding the proposed development and noted no objection to the development on 7 February 2024 (planning reference: OTH/2024/0053).
5. Arcadis produced an ecological constraints report in February 2024 on behalf of the Applicant. The report recommended that any required tree pruning works must be identified and approved by the LPA tree officer and that vegetation clearance should take place outside of bird breeding season.
6. In March 2024, the Secretary of State requested for the applicant to provide further information regarding tree clearance as the development is partially located in ancient woodland. The applicant stated that they had consulted with the LPA tree officer and had commissioned an arboriculture impact assessment upon the tree officer’s request.
7. The Applicant submitted the arboriculture impact assessment in January 2025 and provided the LPA tree officer’s consultation response. The tree officer stated that there would be little likelihood of any significant harm to trees.

Yours sincerely,

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