



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2093u
Your ref: MN-PSOO4777 Sandhurst E1L5

17th April 2025

Dear Mr Matthew Norris,

**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: PSOO4777 Sandhurst E1L5

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:

- Replacing 3 wood poles on an existing 11kV overhead line approximately 425m.



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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 Southern Electric Power Distribution PLC (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Hart District 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 Blackwater Valley SSSI and an Impact Risk Zone.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA concluded their checks and had no objections to make on the proposed development on 3 January 2025.
5. The Applicant consulted Natural England. Natural England responded on 12 November 2024 granting assent for the proposed development covering the period of 1 April 2025 – 31 September 2025 subject to adhering to the conditions laid out on the document (reference: 0711241045LJ).
6. An Ecological Constraints Report was issued by RSK ADAS Limited 17 January 2025. The report determined the route comprised of wet grassland and had several brash piles on site providing suitable habitat for hibernating and resting habitat such as Badger, bats, nesting birds, Great Crested Newts and widespread reptiles. A large Alder tree covered in Ivy was identified approximately 3m from the pole. The proposed development is likely to adversely impact Habitats and the Ecology of the site in the absence of mitigations, especially in relation to Badger, nesting birds, Great Crested Newts and widespread Reptiles. It is therefore recommended that the Applicant follows the recommendations outlined in the Ecological Constraints Report to minimise the risk of impacts on Wildlife and protected species.
7. 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.



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Yours sincerely,

John McKenna
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Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team