



Department for
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& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2127u
Your ref: LA/PS006095/HIND E6L5

30 May 2025

Dear Mr Armstrong,

**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: HIND E6L5

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 9 wood pole structures and 5 stays as part of a 11kV, 2,461 metre overhead line

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 East Hampshire 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 the following designated sensitive areas:
 - Bramshott and Ludshott Commons Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Wealden Heaths Phase II Special Protected Area (SPA)
4. The Applicant produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in which provided details on the working method, risks to protected sites, and proposed mitigation measures.
5. Natural England was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and granted assent to the development from the period between 1 October 2025 and 31 December 2025 based on the HRA submitted regarding the proposed development (Natural England reference: 1912241513AS).
6. In February 2024, the applicant commissioned ADAS to produce an ecology survey which assessed the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised carrying out an endoscope survey all potential bat roost features prior to pole removal; and conducting a badger check to ensure there are no active setts on site.
7. Having considered the HRA, the Secretary of State considers there may be likely significant effects on a National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to potential disturbance to breeding birds, as a result of excavations and vehicle movements. The Secretary of State has considered whether there could be an Adverse Effect on Integrity of the

protected site. The applicant has proposed mitigations such as ensuring excavated materials are returned to the trench in the correct order of layers; and establishing designated routes for vehicles.

8. In light of the proposed mitigations, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site, and this is beyond all reasonable scientific doubt.
9. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who noted no objection to the proposed development (reference: 24/023) in January 2025.

Yours sincerely,

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