



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2286u
Your ref: East End FBS163

25th September 2025

Dear Miss Madeleine Pain,

**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: East End FBS163

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:

- Upgrade an existing pole mounted transformer to a 200kVA and install one pole to an existing pole to form a H pole.

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 New Forest National Park Authority ("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 New Forest SSSI; SPA, SAC, RAMSAR, National Park and an Impact Risk Zone.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA concluded their checks and advised there would be no likely significant effects on the European Sites and therefore had no objections to make on the proposed development on 20 July 2025.
5. The County Archaeologist was consulted on 23 May 2025. The Archaeologist responded via email advising that there were no recorded heritage assets within the area that would be affected by the works and therefore had no objections to make on 28 May 2025.
6. The Applicant consulted Natural England. NE responded on 6 August via email advising that "given the nature and scale of the proposed works Natural England raises no objections".
7. Dalcour produced an Environmental Appraisal Screening Document which included details of a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening exercise. The document dated June 2025 provided details on the working method and risks to protected sites. The HRA concluded that the likelihood of significant effects arising from the proposal, both alone and in-combination could be ruled out.
8. Having considered the HRA, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no likely significant effects on any National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the small scale of works which will be localised and outside the designated site.
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
Head of Network Planning team
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team