



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2309u
Your ref: FDR908

25 September 2025

Dear Mr Brocklehurst,

**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: FDR908

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 the cabling on approximately 750 metres (m) (10 spans) of existing 11kV overhead line with BLX cable.
- Replace 11 existing 9m poles with taller 11m poles.

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 West Berkshire Council ("the LPA"). In reaching her 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 North Wessex Downs National Landscape.
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 25/01558/FORMB) and concluded that EIA is not required as there will be no demonstrable impact to the National Landscape as visual qualities of the equipment would remain the same as present upon completion of the proposed development.
5. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and is likely to have minimal visual impact on the National Landscape in which it is situated.

Yours sincerely,

Calum Haig
Consent Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team