



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2293u
Your ref: EZX487 - Hodcott Buildings

3 October 2025

Dear Mrs Wallace,

**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: EZX487 - Hodcott Buildings

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 11kV overhead line by installing a new H pole and 200kVA transformer.



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

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 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 North Wessex Downs National Landscape.
4. The Applicant consulted the LPA. The LPA responded with no objection on 22 July 2025 and concluded that the proposed development would have a limited spatial impact and be in keeping with the existing local infrastructure.
5. The Applicant consulted North Wessex Downs National Landscape team who confirmed in communications on 30 September 2025 that they had no objection to the proposed development.
6. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing piece of infrastructure and not likely to have a significant effect on the National Landscape in which it is located.

Yours sincerely,

Calum Haig
Consent Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team