



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2340u
Your ref: Chieveley EPK489

11 December 2025

Dear Ms 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: Chieveley Services EPK489

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 West Berkshire Council LPA (“the LPA”) for information.

Screening decision for a proposed development (“the proposed development”) to:

- 10 x pole replacement of existing 810m, 11kV overhead line;
- Upgrade of the line to 120mm BLX



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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 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 areas:
 - Snelsmore Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - North Wessex Downs National Landscape
4. In June 2025, the applicant produced an ecology survey to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised mitigations such as vehicles keeping to designated access routes where possible, having an Ecological Clerk of Works appointed to provide a watching brief and the completion of a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP).
5. The Applicant produced a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) in November 2025 which provided details on the working method, risks to protected sites, and proposed mitigation measures.
6. Natural England was provided the CEMP in November 2025 and granted unconditional assent to the development from the period between 1 February 2026 and 27 February 2026 (Natural England reference: 1111250808JC).
7. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 25/01734/FORMB) in September 2025. It concluded that any adverse impact on the environment can be sufficiently mitigated and is therefore not an EIA development.

Yours sincerely,

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