



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2335u
Your ref: FGC247

18 December 2025

Dear Mr Roberts,

**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: Whispering Willows

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 Waverley District Council (“the LPA”) for information.

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

- 5 x pole replacement of existing 430m, 11kV overhead line;
- Upgrade of the line from single phase to 3-phase



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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:
 - Surrey Hills National Landscape
 - Windhill Copse Ancient Woodland
4. Natural England was consulted regarding the designated sensitive area in August 2025 (reference: 522734) and granted unconditional assent to the development.
5. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: WA/2025/01530) in August 2025. It concluded that the proposed development is not an EIA development.
6. The Applicant consulted with Historic England in November 2025, who had no objections to the proposed development.
7. 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