



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2352u
Your ref: Mytchett Woods GU16

28 January 2026

Dear Mr Blackburn,

**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: MYTCHETT WOODS 11KV BLX REFURB

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:

- Relocate nine 11kV wooden poles to accommodate the installation of three new 11kV poles



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

- Replace 1km of existing 3 wire conductors with BLX wires

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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Surrey Heath Borough 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 Basingstoke Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ash to Brookwood Heaths SSSI, Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).
4. The Applicant produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in July 2024 which ruled out the risk of likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the SAC and SPA.
5. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and on 24 September 2025 granted unconditional assent to the development from the period between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026 (reference: 1609251405NG).
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who responded with no objection to the development on 12 November 2025 (planning reference: 25/0944/SCR).
7. An ecology survey was conducted at the site of the proposed development on 20 May 2024, and the subsequent “Preliminary Ecological Appraisal” was issued on 24 June 2024 by ADAS Ltd (reference: 1050155). The survey identified that areas of bracken, modified grassland, canals, and deciduous and pine woodland provided suitable habitats for nesting birds, badger, hazel dormouse, smooth snake, sand lizard, otter, bats, widespread reptiles, and invertebrates. A number of recommendations to mitigate the limited impacts on protected species and habitats were outlined and will be followed by the Applicant throughout the development.



Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

8. Having considered the HRA, the Secretary of State considers that the proposed development is unlikely to have any significant effects on a National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the temporary nature of the works, the absence of any additional vegetation clearance, the scheduling of works outside the main bird breeding season, and the works area does not form part of the qualifying features for the site's designation.
9. In light of the proposed mitigations, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site, and this is beyond all reasonable scientific doubt.

Yours sincerely,

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