



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2378u  
Your ref: FGC804

09 March 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: FGC804**

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 existing 11kV overhead line approximately 575m from single-phase to three- phase, including up to seven potential pole replacements subject to pole conditions



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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 South Downs National Park Authority (“the LPA”). In particular, 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 is located within the South Downs National Park and Ancient Woodland.
4. The Applicant consulted the Local Planning Authority (LPA), which reviewed the proposed development and, on 11 December 2025, confirmed that an EIA was not required. The LPA advised that the works are not considered to result in any adverse visual impact on the character or appearance of the landscape. While minor disturbance may occur during the works, these activities are confined to specific areas that will be kept clear. The LPA concluded that the works would not have any permanent impact on the area and therefore raises no objections.
5. Historic England was consulted by the Applicant. Historic England advised that the proposed works would not affect any heritage assets within its consultation remit, including Grade I or Grade II\* listed buildings, registered Parks and Gardens or Scheduled Monuments. As such, the works would not require notification to Historic England. On 16 December 2025. Historic England confirmed that it had no objections to the proposal.
6. The Applicant consulted Natural England, which confirmed the development is not within or near a Habitats Site or Site of Special Scientific Interest and had no comments.
7. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing infrastructure and is not likely to have a significant effect on the National Landscape in which it is located.



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Yours sincerely,

Anna-Maria Inglis  
Consent Manager  
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