



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2437u  
Your ref: FEK268

20 March 2026

Dear Miss 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: FEK268 WOODFORD VALLEY**

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:

- Add a third wire conductor into an existing two-phase 11kv 1186 metre overhead line;
- Replace 1 pole on like-for-like basis;
- Replace a pole mounted transformer



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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 Wiltshire 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 the following designated sensitive areas:
  - River Avon System Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - River Avon System Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
4. The Applicant produced a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) which provided details on the working method and risks to protected sites.
5. Having considered the HRA, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no likely significant effects on any National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the short duration of the works and the distance between the works and the protected site.
6. In November 2025, the applicant produced a preliminary ecological assessment to examine the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey advised mitigations such as conducting works outside of bird breeding season and limiting vegetation clearance.
7. In December 2025, Natural England was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and expressed no objections as there consider there will not be any significant impacts upon the designated sites (Natural England reference: 0902241154NG).



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8. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who noted no objection to the proposed development (reference: PL/2025/09802) in February 2026. It concluded that the development is unlikely to result in a likely significant environmental effect and is not EIA development.

Yours sincerely,

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