



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2406u
Your ref: FEW709

10 April 2026

Dear Ms Crockford,

**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: Old Rectory

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 South Downs National Park Authority (“the LPA”) for information.

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

- Line upgrade to 3-phase of a 11kV, 243m overhead line



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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:
 - South Downs National Park
4. The applicant consulted with Natural England who confirmed they had no objections to the proposed development in communications in November 2025 (ref: 533777).
5. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: SDNP/25/04646/OHL) in November 2025. It concluded that the proposed development is not an EIA development.
6. The Secretary of State notes the limited scale of the works, the temporary, localised nature of any impacts and that the proposed development is a minor modification to existing infrastructure. The Secretary of State therefore considers that there are no likely significant effects arising from the expected residues and emissions and the production of waste or the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity and that the proposed development is not likely to have significant effect on the National Park in which it is located.

Yours sincerely,

Anna-Maria Inglis
Consent Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team