



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

Louis N Armstrong  
Southern Electric Power Distribution Plc  
Walton Road  
Drayton  
Portsmouth  
PO6 1UJ

**Energy Infrastructure Planning**  
3-8 Whitehall Place  
London  
SW1A 2JP

**Email:** S37consents  
@energysecurity.gov.uk  
**Website:** [www.gov.uk/desnz](http://www.gov.uk/desnz)

Our ref: 2470u  
Your ref: LA CAUS E3L5 Thorpe Hay Meadow

13 May 2026

Dear Mr Armstrong,

**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: CAUSEWAY E3L5**

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:

- Replace three wooden poles and ten stays forming part of a 215 metre, 11kV 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 (“the Applicant”) in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views of Runnymede 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 the Thorpe Hay Meadow Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the development on 22 September 2025.
5. Natural England (NE) was consulted regarding the designated sensitive area and granted unconditional assent to the development from the period between 1 April 2026 and 30 June 2026 (reference: 0807250811LJ).
6. An ecology survey was conducted at the site of the proposed development on 20 August 2025 and the subsequent “Ecological Constraints Report” was issued on 16 September 2025 by ADAS Ltd (reference: BRT69105-1594(00)). The survey identified that habitats on site comprising of rough grassland, shrub, trees, and a ditch provided suitable habitats for White-clawed crayfish, great crested newt, widespread reptiles, nesting birds, water vole, hazel dormouse, and otter. Excavations at P5069 may impact the tree root protection zone of the adjacent Crack Willow. To mitigate ecological impacts, a non-licenced method statement should be prepared covering White-clawed crayfish, great crested newt, widespread reptiles, water vole, and hazel dormouse with an Ecological Clerk of Works present to supervise the works. Excavations in close proximity to the trees adjacent to P5069 should follow Street Works UK Guidelines for tree root protection, and vegetation clearance should be undertaken between September and



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February, where this is not possible, a nesting bird check must be completed on any trees and scrub likely to be impacted prior to the works commencing.

Yours sincerely,

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