



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2483u
Your ref: LA-PS003968

21st 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: LA-PS003968-YATK E1L5-Honeybrook Farm

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:



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- Replacement of four 11kV wood poles, associated stays and stay blocks including the replumbing of two poles on an existing overhead line approximately 530m.

Secretary of State considerations:

1. 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 particular, in reaching his decision the Secretary of State notes the following factors:

- a) The proposed development does not fall within Schedule 1 (mandatory EIA);
- b) 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.
- c) The proposed development is located within the Honeybrook Farm SSSI, Cotswolds National Landscape and Impact Risk Zone.
- d) On 4 February 2026 the LPA concluded that provided that the works are undertaken responsibly, the proposed development is unlikely to result in any significant environmental effects, and a full EIA was not required. The LPA raised no objections to the proposed development.
- e) Natural England was consulted regarding the designated sensitive areas and granted assent to the development from the period between 1 May 2026 and 31 August 2026 based on the proposed development (Natural England reference: 1010251618CG).
- f) An Ecological Constraints Report was prepared by RSK ADAS Limited on 27 March 2026, which identified that the site comprised of species -rich calcareous grassland, neutral grassland and mixed deciduous woodland. The survey identified the heathland offers suitable conditions for multiple species, including Great Crested Newts, ground nesting birds, bats, Hazel Dormouse, widespread reptiles. Badger setts were not identified during the survey. However, the dense scrub, grassland and woodland provide suitable habitat for foraging, commuting and sett creation. The report concluded that the pole replacement is unlikely to result in significant



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ecological harm, provided the mitigations set out in the Ecological Constraints Report (BRT69105- 1662(00)) are implemented.

2. The proposed development is a minor modification to an existing infrastructure. Having considered the evidence and proposed mitigations the Secretary of State is satisfied beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there will be no Adverse Effect on Integrity of the protected site.

Yours sincerely,

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