



Department for
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Our ref: 2481u
Your ref: MN-HABOE6L5- THE MENS SSSI

26 June 2026

Dear Mr Norris,

**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: PS006277 - HASLINGBOURNE E6L5

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:

- Replacement of 3 poles and 8 stays on an 1,069m, 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 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:
 - The Mens Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - The Mens Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - South Downs National Park
 - Ancient Woodland
4. In February 2026, the applicant produced a Habitats Regulation Assessment to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The assessment advised the key risk was vehicle movements and that they would seek assent from Natural England (NE) to start during bird breeding season so that work could be programmed during a period of dry weather. Where nests are found, an alternative access route will be used to reach the pole. Where an alternative access cannot be found, works on the pole will be halted and continue after bird breeding season.
5. The Applicant contacted Natural England in March 2026, and they granted assent between the period of 1 April 2026 and 1 April 2027 (ref: 1602261450AS).
6. The Applicant consulted with the LPA in March 2026 who had no objection to the proposed development and concluded it was not an EIA development (reference: SDNP/26/00667/OHL).
7. In February 2026, the applicant produced an ecology report by ADAS to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development (reference: BRT69105 – 1721 (00)). The survey advised mitigations such as a non-licensed method statement to be produced to minimise the risk to Hazel Dormouse and reptiles and that an ecological clerk of



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works will be required to supervise vegetation clearance and ensure the method statement is adhered to.

8. The Secretary of State notes the limited scale of the works, and localised nature of any impacts and that the proposed development is a like for like replacement 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 designated sites in which it is located.

Yours sincerely,

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