



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2499u
Your ref: Twinwood Road, Bedford, MK41 6AB

9 July 2026

Dear Mr Aust,

**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: Twinwood Road, Bedford, MK41 6AB

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 Bedford Borough Council (“the LPA”) for information.

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

- Install 2 gantries and a 10m 132kV line to facilitate a solar farm connection



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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 Eastern Power Networks PLC ("the Applicant") in relation to the impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the views 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 132 kilovolts and therefore requires a mandatory screening.
3. The proposed development does not fall within any designated sensitive areas.
4. The Applicant consulted with the LPA who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: 26/00203/PRM) in May 2026.
5. The Secretary of State notes the limited scale of the works and the temporary, localised nature of any impacts. 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 site in which it is located.

Yours sincerely,

Anna-Maria Inglis
Consent Manager
Energy Infrastructure Planning Delivery Team