



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

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Our ref: 2536u
Your ref: MN-PS006096 HIND E4L5

10 August 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: Hindhead E4L5 11kV NI

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 Waverley Council (“the LPA”) for information.

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

- Replace 1 H pole, 4 stays and install a high voltage cable joint on an 11kV, 1,095m 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 her 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:
 - Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Common Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Common Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Thursley, Ash Pirbright & Cobham Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
 - Whealdon Heaths National Nature Reserve
 - Surrey Hills National Landscape
4. In April 2026, the applicant produced a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development.
5. Having considered the HRA, the Secretary of State is satisfied that there will be no likely significant effects on any National Site Network site under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. This is due to the works being minor, temporary and spatially confined. Works will be carried out during a period of dry weather, and an ecologist will be onsite to check the area for breeding birds and reptiles before works commence.
6. The Applicant consulted Natural England in June 2026, and they granted unconditional assent between the period of 1 June 2026 and 1 June 2027 (ref: 1905261204DF).
7. The Applicant consulted with the LPA in June 2026 who had no objection to the proposed development (reference: WA/2026/00571). It concluded the works are not an EIA development.



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8. In June 2026, ADAS, on behalf of the applicant produced an ecological constraints report to assess the possible risks and mitigations of the development. The survey identified woodpecker holes on the H pole with PRF-1 suitability for bats, the habitat surrounding both poles were deemed unsuitable for any protected species. The report recommended an endoscope be undertaken on the H pole prior to removal and that if any mammal burrow is found within 20m of the poles then works should be stopped and ADAS contacted.
9. 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