

National Grid to unveil plans to remove pylons in New Forest

Residents invited to comment on National Grid's plans to remove eight pylons in the New Forest as part of programme to reduce visual impact of power lines

17 Jul 2018

- **Local people are invited to find out more about proposals to replace an approximately 3km stretch of overhead electricity transmission line and eight pylons with underground cables on Hale Purlieu**
- **Public information events will be held inviting residents to view the proposals and find out the facts.**
- **The drop-in sessions will be held on Friday 27 July between 2pm and 8pm at Hale village hall, and on Tuesday 31 July between 2pm and 8pm at Woodgreen village hall.**

Local people in Hale and the surrounding villages are invited to attend a set of public information events to find out more about plans to replace existing electricity transmission infrastructure with underground cables.

The plans, which are being proposed by National Grid as part of its Visual Impact Provision project*, would see an approximately 3km stretch of overhead electricity transmission line replaced with underground cables on Hale Purlieu, permanently removing eight pylons from the landscape.

Since the project first began in 2015, National Grid has been working together with local stakeholders to develop its proposals, including the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, National Trust, Natural England, the Forestry Commission and the parish councils surrounding Hale Purlieu.

At the events, local people will be able to find out the facts about the project and share their views. Members of the National Grid project team will also be on hand to answer any questions about the plans and discuss them in detail.

The information sessions are being held on Friday 27 July between 2pm and 8pm at Hale village hall, and on Tuesday 31 July between 2pm and 8pm at Woodgreen village hall. These events will be held ahead of further public consultation which will take place in the autumn this year prior to the submission of a planning application (which will also be subject to a consultation period) in early 2019.

Ben Smith, VIP project manager (south), said: "We believe that the VIP project presents a major opportunity to conserve and enhance the Hale Purlieu landscape for the many local people who regularly enjoy it.

"These events will be an invaluable opportunity for residents to come along and find out more about the project and have their say.

"We have made good progress on our proposals together with our stakeholder partners and we are now in a position to share our plans with the local community."

The VIP project will also be on display at the New Forest Show (Tuesday 24 – Thursday 26 July) and the Ellingham & Ringwood Agricultural Show (Saturday 11 August) where visitors will have the opportunity to meet members of the project team and explore the proposals in detail.

To find out more about the project and the forthcoming information events, please visit: <http://newforest.nationalgrid.co.uk/>

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

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National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid

Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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