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People invited to help with study on reducing visual impact of overhead electricity lines

Two drop-in events in Peak District on 29/30 April

22 Apr 2015

- Local people invited to help with study on reducing visual impact of overhead electricity lines in the Peak District National Park
- Two public event scheduled for 29/30 April
- National Grid and Peak District National Park collaborating as part of the Visual Impact Provision project
- Local residents are being invited to help with a study into reducing the visual impact of pylons in the Peak District National Park.

In November 2014, National Grid identified three sections of overhead power line in the National Park, as having a significant visual impact on the landscape – one of these lines is near Dunford Bridge. The company is now working with the Peak District National Park Authority and other local stakeholders including the Friends of the Peak District and the local CPRE group to investigate whether it's possible to reduce the impact of this power line in the National Park.

National Grid is inviting local people to share their feedback and local knowledge of the area at two events. Members of the project team will be on hand to answer questions and provide additional information about the project.

Wednesday 29 April

The Parish Room, Christ Church, Tintwistle SK13 1JY

Thursday 30 April

The Parish Community Centre, Sheffield Road, Victoria, Holmfirth HD9 7TP

Both events take place between 2pm and 8pm.

The information gathered will be used by National Grid as it investigates whether the section of line in the National Park could be part of the final shortlist of projects to benefit from the Visual Impact Provision* project.

This is a major initiative to reduce the visual impact of existing energy transmission lines in protected areas of Great Britain; it will make use of a £500 million allowance made available by energy regulator Ofgem until 2021.

Local community invited to join study on reducing visual impact of existing power lines in the Peak District National Park.

John Keeley, planning manager at the Peak District National Park Authority, said: "We hope as many people and interested groups as possible can attend these events. These measures would greatly improve the appearance of the valley, which runs through some of the wildest moorland landscape in the Peak District, and it is important that local people get involved and give their views."

Hector Pearson, National Grid VIP Project Manager said: "National Grid's electricity network is vital to our way of life, but this project provides a real opportunity to help reduce its impact on treasured landscapes like the Peak District National Park. We have already investigated the potential engineering options available to reduce the visual impact of our power line in the west of the National Park. This event is the first step in gathering essential information to help us to consider how we could potentially reduce the visual impact of this overhead line at the eastern end of the National Park, near Dunford Bridge and whether we could take this further forward."

Peak District National Park is one of eight areas across England and Wales identified which could benefit from the Visual Impact Provision project. A Stakeholder Advisory Group made up of organisations dedicated to protecting precious landscapes across England and Wales will decide which locations from this final shortlist will be taken forward for feasibility work and potential engineering projects.

Residents who are unable to attend the drop-in session can still contribute to the research and register for project updates on the website www.nationalgrid.com/vip.

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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