

National Grid – National Park Commitments

As a member of the Corporate Forum for National Parks, National Grid welcomes the opportunity to work with the Campaign for National Parks to promote understanding of the importance and value of National Parks to both our employees and wider stakeholders.

Our work in National Parks

Whilst only a small proportion of our networks are within national parks, we do our best to minimise any disruption to daily life when developing, maintaining or refurbishing our assets.

Where work has to be undertaken in a National Park, these are our commitments:

- *When planning new gas and electricity transmission and gas distribution network infrastructure we will consult the relevant National Park Authorities at the earliest opportunity in the development of policies or plans that could affect National Parks.*
- *Wherever possible, seeking to avoid major new developments in National Parks when planning new infrastructure unless there are circumstances where a development is of national interest and no reasonably practicable alternative is available.*
- *Where National Parks cannot be avoided in routeing new electricity transmission lines we will consider the use of underground cable where the impact on visual amenity would be significant in sensitive locations and could not be mitigated by other means.*
- *Planning and carrying out our works to minimise any adverse impact on the environment, local communities or visitor enjoyment when undertaking refurbishment of existing infrastructure and carry out mitigation measures to reduce those impacts as far as practicable.*
- *Ensuring that all relevant employees and our contactors are aware of National Park purposes and understand the implications of their actions when carrying out works in National Parks.*
- *Seeking to continually improve working practices in National Parks by utilising the best practicable construction and maintenance techniques to minimise the impact on the environment. We will seek to agree these in consultation with National Park Authorities.*

Mitigating the impact of existing lines

Ofgem has made available £500m to reduce the visual impact of existing electricity transmission lines in Great Britain. National Grid is keen to use this fund for addressing the visual impact of our lines in English and Welsh National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We have named the initiative the *Visual Impact Provision* project.

The VIP project presents an exciting opportunity for us to work with a dedicated group of stakeholders representing the wider national interests of the landscape and environment. Advised by some of the UK's leading landscape experts, we will identify potential projects that can deliver the greatest visual mitigation, enabling us to conserve and enhance the most treasured landscapes of England and Wales.

For more information on the Visual Impact Provision project, please visit:
<http://www.talkingnetworkstx.com/visual-impact-provision.aspx>.

For more information on National Grid, please visit:
www.nationalgrid.com