

National Grid - National Parks Commitments

National Grid is an international electricity and gas company and one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. We play a vital role in delivering gas and electricity to many millions of people across Great Britain and North Eastern US. We are committed to safeguarding our global environment for future generations and providing all of our customers with the highest standards of service through investment in our networks and through our talented, diverse workforce. Our vision is to be the foremost international electricity and gas company, delivering unparalleled safety, efficiency and reliability, vital to the well-being of our customers and communities.

We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales and operate the system across Great Britain. We also own and operate the high pressure gas transmission system in Great Britain and our distribution business delivers gas to 11 million homes and businesses.

We are committed to the protection and enhancement of the environment, always seeking new ways to minimise the environmental impacts of our past, present and future activities. We incorporate environmental considerations into all of our business activities and we monitor our environmental performance, audit the effectiveness of our management systems, and report our performance to our employees, shareholders, the public and other stakeholders. Our position at the heart of the UK's energy infrastructure gives us insight into the challenge that climate change brings to the energy industry.

The main areas of our activities that may have an impact on National Parks are the development, maintenance and refurbishment of the gas and electricity transmission and gas distribution network infrastructure required to fulfil our statutory duties. We are committed to ensuring that all work carried out in, or affecting National Parks, is done in a manner which reflects the duties on National Grid under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and other relevant legislation, including The National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, in particular the duty to have regard to National Park purposes.

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 formulation of policies or plans that could affect National Parks.
- ◆ We will seek to avoid major new developments in National Parks 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 routing 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.
- ◆ Through careful timing and consultation we will plan and carry out our works to minimise any adverse impact on the environment, local communities and visitor enjoyment and carry out mitigation measures to reduce those impacts as far as practicable.
- ◆ We will ensure that all relevant employees and our contractors are aware of National Park purposes and understand the implications of their actions when carrying out works in National Parks.
- ◆ We will seek 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.
- ◆ Periodically we will review the need for gas and electricity transmission equipment within National Parks to inform the production of National Park Management Plans and when undertaking refurbishment of existing overhead electricity lines consider the use of new technology where this could mitigate their visual impact.

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 both to our employees and wider stakeholders.