

By email to anna.kulhavy@ofgem.gov.uk

20 June 2022

Dear Anna

Response to consultation on National Grid Electricity Transmission's Enhancing Pre-existing Infrastructure project in the Snowdonia National Park

The Campaign for National Parks is the only national charity dedicated to campaigning to protect, enhance and promote the 13 National Parks in England and Wales. Our mission is to inspire everyone to enjoy and look after National Parks – the nation's green treasures. We have been campaigning for over 80 years to ensure that our National Parks are beautiful, inspirational places which everyone has an opportunity to enjoy both now and in the future. We work closely with the local Friends' groups in each of the Parks and have liaised with Cymdeithas Eryri Snowdonia Society (CESS) on the preparation of this response.

We strongly support the Snowdonia VIP project and agree with Ofgem's assessment of the proposed funding allowance for it. The project is fully consistent with National Grid's VIP policy and provides a significant opportunity to enhance this part of Snowdonia National Park and its setting. The removal of 10 pylons and 3.3km of double overhead lines and their replacement with an underground cable tunnel and associated infrastructure will deliver significant benefits in the form of enhanced landscape character, visual amenity and tranquillity. The project will support and enhance National Park purposes and will help demonstrate that Ofgem and National Grid are fulfilling the statutory duty set out in the *Environment Act 1995* to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the National Park when exercising or performing any functions affecting land within it.

National Parks are our finest landscapes with the highest level of protection and as champions of the National Parks we are keen to see that every opportunity is taken to conserve and enhance their wildlife, cultural heritage and natural beauty for future generations to enjoy. We have worked closely with other NGOs over a number of years to ensure that National Grid is able to reduce the visual impact of existing overhead infrastructure in protected landscapes. This work led to the development of the VIP programme and to the proposals covered by this consultation which will deliver significant enhancements. We are therefore keen to see this project implemented as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bradshaw
Policy and Research Manager