

Evan Alaa

From: Howard Sutcliffe <howard.sutcliffe@denbighshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 December 2023 18:38
To: Evan Alaa
Subject: Re: North Wessex Downs

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from howard.sutcliffe@denbighshire.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Evan,

On behalf of the National Association of Areas of Outstanding Beauty (NAAONB) I would like to make the following points:

The NAAONB position is that we support the undergrounding of pylons in AONBs and National Parks, and in this particular AONB - North Wessex Downs through the National Grid Visual Improvement Programme

We welcome and support Ofgem's decision to approve the VIP project in the North Wessex Downs National Landscape

- Ofgem is fulfilling its duties as a public body, of having regard for the purposes of AONBs through Section 85 of the CROW Act 2000, and should be congratulated.
- The project has local and national support, and has had the full support of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) throughout the years of its development.
- SAG's scrutiny of National Grid's work and guidance in its decision-making have been instrumental in ensuring the best possible projects are developed and delivered.
- Successful projects in Dorset AONB/National Landscape and the Peak District National Park will have a lasting legacy for generations to come.
- However, Ofgem's 'minded to' position on funding for the project is £47m, which is £14m lower than the funding submission put forward by National Grid
- Projects in Dorset and the Peak District had their proposed funding reduced by Ofgem from £118m to £116m and £43.5m to £43.0m respectively.
- We understand the Ofgem position, as it is your role to ensure best value for the consumer. However, it is clear that the reduction proposed for North Wessex Downs project is of a different scale. In particular it is recognised across the economy that all aspects of life cost more from wages to raw materials cost on average 30% more.
- NGET has assured us that for the North Wessex Downs project, it has submitted costs on a consistent basis to prior VIP projects and to the RIIO-T2 baseline.
- Please reconsider this funding allowance as a matter of urgency. A great many stakeholders and individuals outside of National Grid have invested significant amounts of time and energy in the project.
- Please review your funding proposal and bring it into line with the other VIP projects that you have sanctioned to date.

Many Thanks for considering this letter,

Regards

Howard Sutcliffe

Howard Sutcliffe
Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy
AHNE Swyddog a Rheolwr Gwasanaeth y Ceidwaid

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley
AONB Officer and Ranger Service Manager
Ffon/Tel: 01352 810614/ 07887 554737
E-bost: howard.sutcliffe@sirddinbych.gov.uk
E-mail: howard.sutcliffe@denbighshire.gov.uk

[AHNE Bryniau Clwyd a Dyffryn Dyfrdwy](#)



[Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB](#)



[Cefn Gwlad Sir Ddinbych](#)



[Denbighshire Countryside](#)



Dilyn ni ar Twitter: <http://twitter.com/cyngorsDd> - Follow us on Twitter:
<http://twitter.com/DenbighshireCC>
Ymwelwch a ni ar-lein ar <http://www.sirddinbych.gov.uk> - Visit us online at
<http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk>

Mae'r wybodaeth a gynhwysir yn yr e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau a drosglwyddir gydag o wedi eu bwriadu yn unig ar gyfer pwy bynnag y cyfeirir ef ato neu atynt. Os ydych wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn drwy gamgymeriad, hysbyswch yr anfonwr ar unwaith os gwelwch yn dda. Mae cynnwys yr e-bost yn cynrychioli barn yr unigolyn(ion) a enwir uchod ac nid yw o angenrheidrwydd yn cynrychioli barn Cyngor Sir Ddinbych. Serch hynny, fel Corff Cyhoeddus, efallai y bydd angen i Gyngor Sir Ddinbych ddatgelu'r e-bost hwn [neu unrhyw ymateb iddo] dan ddarpariaethau deddfwriaethol.

The information contained in this e-mail message and any files transmitted with it is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this e-mail in error please notify the sender immediately. The contents of this e-mail represents the views of the individual(s) named above and do not necessarily represent the views of Denbighshire County Council. However, as a Public Body, Denbighshire County Council may be required to disclose this e-mail [or any response to it] under legislative provisions.