

13 January 2006

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By email to [GDPCRresponses@ofgem.gov.uk](mailto:GDPCRresponses@ofgem.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Whittington

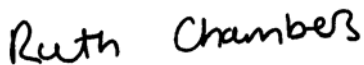
### **Gas Distribution Price Control Review (GDPCR)**

The Council for National Parks (CNP) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the GDPCR. CNP is the national charity which works to protect and enhance the National Parks of England and Wales and areas that merit National Park status and promote understanding and quiet enjoyment of them for the benefit of all.

Paragraph 2.23 states that Ofgem has a range of environmental duties but omits reference to the duty<sup>1</sup> placed on Ofgem to have regard to National Park purposes when coming to decisions or carrying out its activities relating to or affecting land within the National Parks. The government has recently clarified<sup>2</sup> that the duty is intended to ensure that the purposes for which National Parks have been designated are recognised as an essential consideration in reaching decisions or undertaking activities that would have an impact on the National Parks (Ofgem is listed on page 9 of this guidance note as a body to which the duty applies). CNP therefore suggests that explicit reference to this duty should be made when Ofgem lists its various environmental duties.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require clarification of any of the above or any further information.

Yours sincerely



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Deputy Chief Executive

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<sup>1</sup> Section 11A of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, as amended by Section 62 of the 1995 Environment Act.

<sup>2</sup> Duties on relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of National Parks, AONBs and the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, Defra, 2005.