P L A C E

Robert Hull
Director, Transmissions
OFGEM
9, Millbank
London SW1P 3GE

6/11/2006

Dear Bob Hull,

UNDERGROUNDING/SURFACE TROUGHING ADVOCACY

I now enclose the latest versions of PLACE / CPRE proposals. There are two folded A3 cards which should be seen as mutually supporting although either could stand alone if the other were lost. They replace the previous document I sent with my letter dated 21/9/2006.

Yours sincerely,

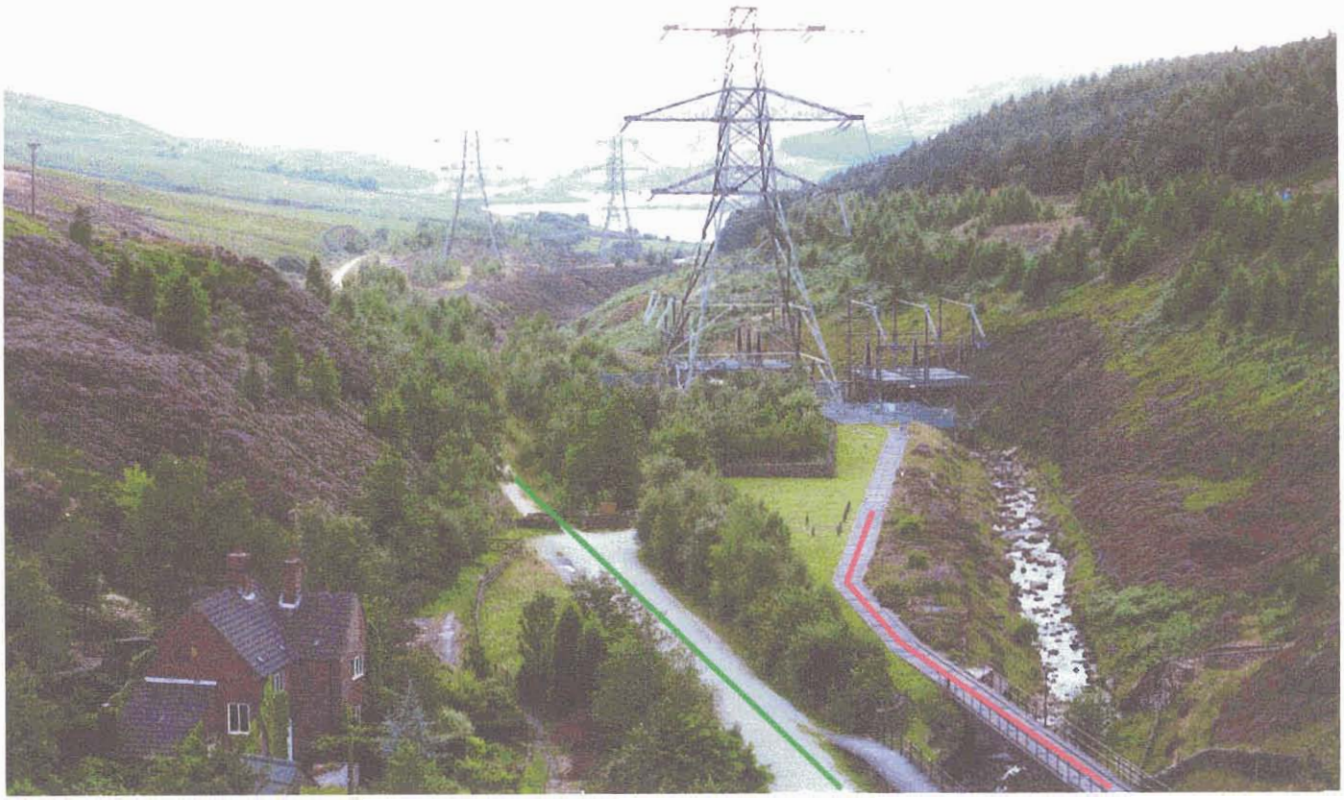
Andrew Darke

Andrew Darke

PLACE Field House, Yorkley Wood, Nr. Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 4TU, UK tel. +44 (0)1594 562646

A new vision for Longdendale in the Peak National Park and the Upper Don Valley

Longdendale would be like this
if the 400kV overhead transmission line were 'undergrounded'/surface troughed



The National Grid (NG) Thorpe Marsh to Stalybridge 400kV overhead transmission line dominates the Upper Don Valley eastwards (below) and Longdendale westwards from Woodhead (front cover, below) - note also the old Manchester to Sheffield railway track bed, now the Transpennine Trail (green line), and surface troughing to its right (red line). Photographs 2006

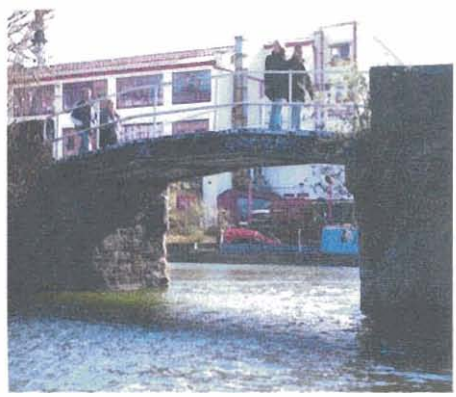

Surface troughing crossing the river Etherow and entering the Woodhead tunnels
(carrying six 400kV cables - a double circuit)

The NG Thorpe Marsh to Stalybridge transmission system follows the railway track bed above and below ground for 11.25 miles. 3.5 miles have already been 'undergrounded' through the Woodhead tunnels and surface troughed for amenity reasons, after a public inquiry and recommendation by the National Parks Commission in the early 1960s

Why not extend 'undergrounding'/surface troughing along the old railway track bed?

Another NG 400kV 'underground' circuit in use in the UK





Three views of Kingsland Basin footbridge showing the route of six NG 400kV cables beneath the towpath of Regents Canal, London

Metal casing containing six 400kV cables (within the red line), Kingsland Basin footbridge. (See also above right)

Front cover above; opposite page above:
Longdendale and the Upper Don Valley after digital removal of the Thorpe Marsh to Stalybridge transmission line

This document is twinned with a similar one advocating a specific 'undergrounding'/surface troughing project at Dunford Bridge

contact:
PLACE Jonathan Adamson Tower House Cemetery Road Edgerton Huddersfield HD1 5NF tel. +44 (0)1484 536103
Andrew Darke Field House Yorkley Wood Nr. Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 4TU tel. +44 (0)1594 562646
e.mail: place@clearhorizons.fsnet.co.uk www.viewsvistasandreverie.org

Pedestrian route above six 'undergrounded' NG 400kV cables in Regents Canal towpath, London.

The track bed of the old Manchester to Sheffield railway appears to offer similar opportunities for 'undergrounding'

Image of "full undergrounding" from National Grid's current booklet "Overhead or Underground? National Grid's approach."
The booklet states "installing underground circuits entails construction activity amounting to the width of a dual carriageway. The total width required ranges from 15 to 30m depending mainly on the power to be transmitted," pp10.

The width of the 'undergrounding'/surface troughing on Regents Canal varies between 2 to 4m. NG's booklet does not mention surface troughing, nor any width of land-take for undergrounding less than 15m

produced collaboration with Dr. Andy Tickle Campaign Protect Rural England (CPRE) Sheffield

PLACE

A new vision for Longdendale in the Peak National Park and the Upper Don Valley

Making a start in the Upper Don Valley by extending the 'undergrounding'/surface troughing of the Thorpe Marsh to Stalybridge 400kV overhead transmission line east from the Woodhead tunnels to north-east of the river Don.

National Grid (NG) intends to begin work replacing and transferring cables in the Woodhead tunnels sometime between 2007 and 2010. Present thinking in NG indicates this may include adjustments to the cable sealing end and pylons at Dunford Bridge.

PLACE and Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)/Friends of the Peak District believe there is now a unique opportunity at Dunford Bridge to 'underground'/ surface trough from the Woodhead tunnels to north-east of the Don.

An initial modest project would release the community of Dunford Bridge, the Peak National Park and the important Dunford access point onto the Transpennine Trail from the dominating presence of the cable sealing end and overhead transmission line

Dunford Bridge from the embankment of Winscar Reservoir showing the existing 400kV overhead line

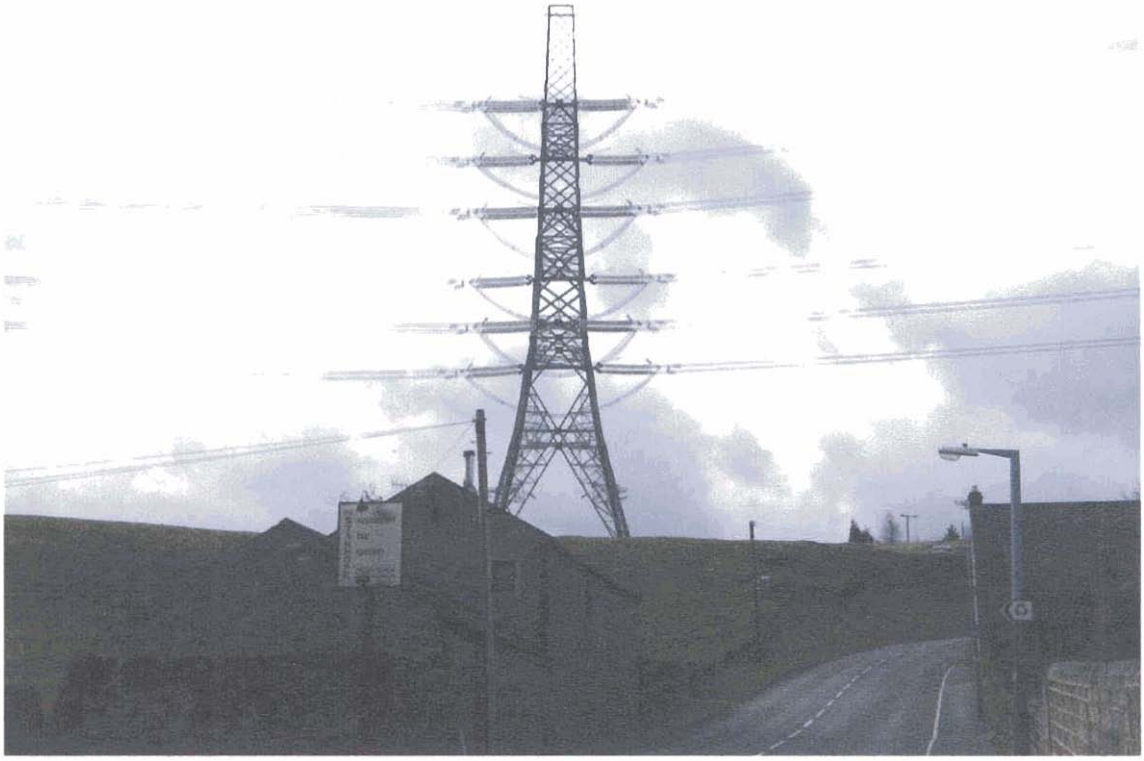
The red line indicates possible 'undergrounding'/surface troughing routes east from the Woodhead tunnels.

Note the digitally manipulated image shows the removal of approximately 8km of the existing overhead line from the Upper Don Valley

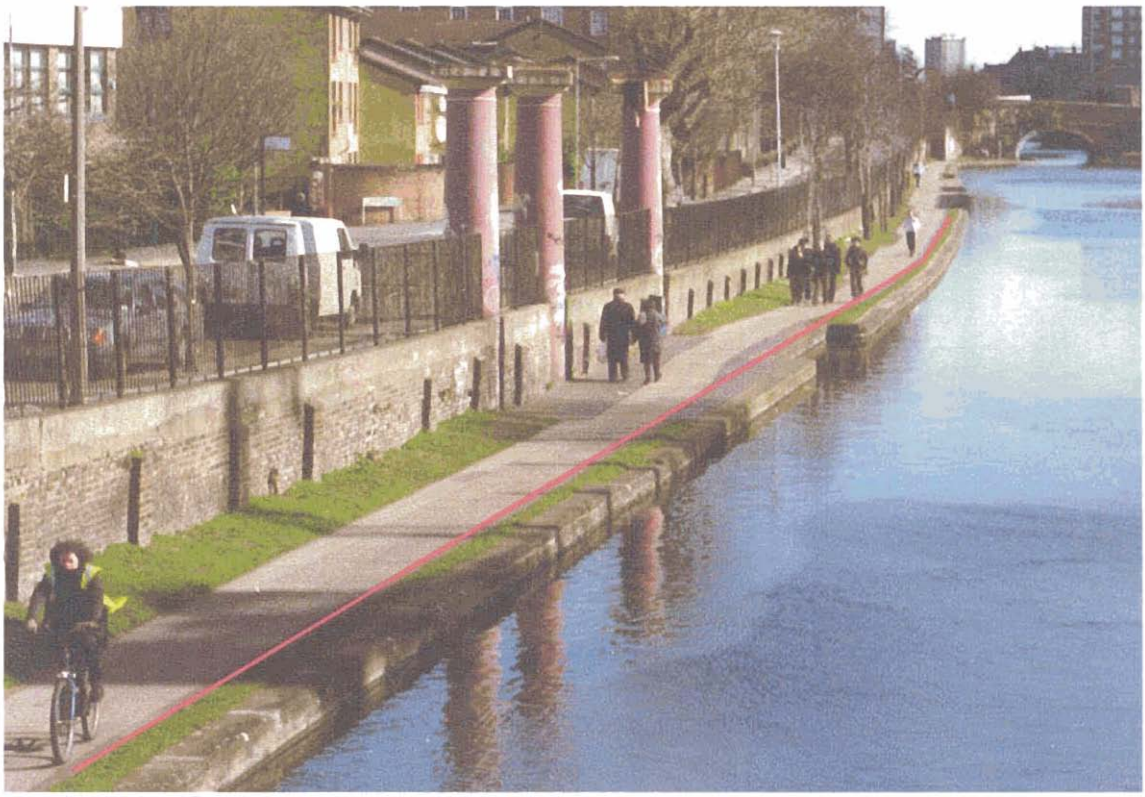
This document is twinned with a similar one advocating further 'undergrounding'/surface troughing along the old Manchester to Sheffield railway track bed

Front cover: **'Bees in a garden make a speciality of honey and so does honey.'** Pamela Day. Drawing 5, 7 May 2004

contact:
PLACE Jonathan Adamson Tower House Cemetery Road Edgerton Huddersfield HD1 5NF tel. +44 (0)1484 536103
Andrew Darke Field House Yorkley Wood Nr. Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 4TU tel. +44 (0)1594 562646
e.mail: place@clearhorizons.fsnet.co.uk www.viewsvistasandreverie.org



THESE TWO NG TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS CARRY THE SAME POWER



Above: Pylon and 400kV double circuit overhead transmission line seen from Dunford Bridge.
Below: 'Undergrounding'/surface troughing (left of the red line) of a 400kV double circuit in the towpath of Regents Canal, London. Photographs 2006

Is there any reason why 'undergrounding'/surface troughing combined with the new XLPE cable technology should not be used at Dunford Bridge along the old railway track bed, or in similar circumstances?

PLACE

produced in collaboration with Dr. Andy Tickle Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Sheffield