



Historic England

Dear Cissie

Consultation on Ofgem's assessment of National Grid's proposal for reducing visual amenity impacts in the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities, to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

The landscape of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), with its outstanding archaeological heritage, is one such special place. As a member of the project's national Stakeholder Advisory Group, Historic England has helped National Grid to develop the Visual Impact Provision (VIP) project. In Dorset, we helped develop the detail of the project to remove the overhead line near Winterbourne Abbas and Martinstown, working with National Grid on plans to mitigate against the scheme's potential to impact on the historic environment.

- *Based on the information in this consultation, do you agree with our assessment of National Grid's approach in undertaking the Dorset AONB mitigation project?*

We are confident that the project will visually enhance the historic landscape of Dorset, benefitting not only local communities but the many people who visit each year specifically to enjoy it.

- *Based on the information in this consultation do you agree with our assessment of proposed efficient costs for the Dorset AONB mitigation project?*

National Grid's ongoing consultation with technical stakeholders, at a national and local level, has delivered a project which benefits this special environment. We are satisfied that the Dorset VIP project meets the criteria set out in the project's Guiding Principles, 'to result in the greatest opportunities to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage whilst avoiding unacceptable environmental

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impacts' and we look forward now to continuing to work with National Grid through the project's delivery phase.

- *Do you have any other comments or information relevant to our assessment?*

In terms of lessons learned, we consider it would be preferable in future to try and achieve an integrated approach with other services and utilities in the same area to try and maximise the benefits to the historic environment, and to minimise damage to it.

Please get back to me if you have any queries with this response.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Chadburn

Senior National Infrastructure Adviser

Government Advice Team



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