

Received by email [Dated 11 January 2021]

Dear Dale,

Please find below the Ramblers' comments on Ofgem's *Consultation on our assessment of NGET's proposal for reducing visual amenity impacts in the Peak District National Park*.

The Ramblers helps everyone, everywhere, enjoy walking and protects the places we all love to walk. We are the charity dedicated to looking after paths and green spaces, leading walks, opening up new places to explore and encouraging everyone to get outside and discover how walking boosts health and happiness. Enabling people to walk in beautiful landscapes is at the heart of the Ramblers mission. We have a long history of collaborating with like-minded organisations to protect the unique sense of freedom that comes from being outdoors on foot, and our participation in the Visual Impact Provision project stems from this ambition.

Implementation of the VIP policy

As a member of the VIP national Stakeholder Advisory Group, the Ramblers has helped to drive forward this scheme to improve the landscapes our members, and the general public, love. In part, this has meant shaping the projects being taken forward, including in the Peak District National Park and we support Ofgem's conclusion that this project has complied with the processes set out in the VIP policy. Ramblers' members and volunteers have shown a distinct interest in the initiative, demonstrating its value and the ability of its principles to capture the imagination of those who enjoy these nationally treasured landscapes. We continue to encourage our members to engage with the VIP and LEI through collaboration with their local AONB Partnerships and National Park Authorities, and we have received positive feedback on the way in which National Grid has engaged with our local area volunteer about the Peak East scheme.

Project benefits

We are fully confident that the Peak District project offers very real enhancement to the locality in which it sits and will greatly benefit the surrounding communities, as well as the many visitors who regularly seek out the landscapes it affects. We are pleased that walkers using promoted routes that intersect with the scheme will be able to benefit from the landscape enhancements. Accordingly, we agree with Ofgem's assessment that this project will deliver significant landscape benefits.

Based on the information in this consultation do you agree with our assessment and proposed funding allowances for the Peak East VIP project?

We support Ofgem's proposed funding for the Peak East project.

Should you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Alison

Alison Hallas MCIWEM C.WEM

Policy & advocacy officer (countryside & access)

The Ramblers

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