

The National Grid logo, consisting of the word "nationalgrid" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, positioned in the upper right corner of the slide. The background of the slide is a photograph of a landscape with power lines and pylons stretching across a field of yellow-flowered bushes and a line of trees under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

nationalgrid

Visual Impact Provision

New Forest National Park
5th November 2015

Hector Pearson

Background

- Under the **RIIO T1** price controls, **ofgem** has agreed a provision of £500 million for electricity transmission owners to mitigate the visual impact of existing electricity infrastructure in nationally protected landscapes in Great Britain.
- This provision can **only** be spent on **existing** lines through **National Parks** and **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty**
- For nationalgrid this equates to 571km of overhead lines, about 7% of our network
- **ofgem** requires a policy to be produced on how the allowance would be used.
- nationalgrid policy approved in March 2014.



Our policy & approach

Policies and Reports



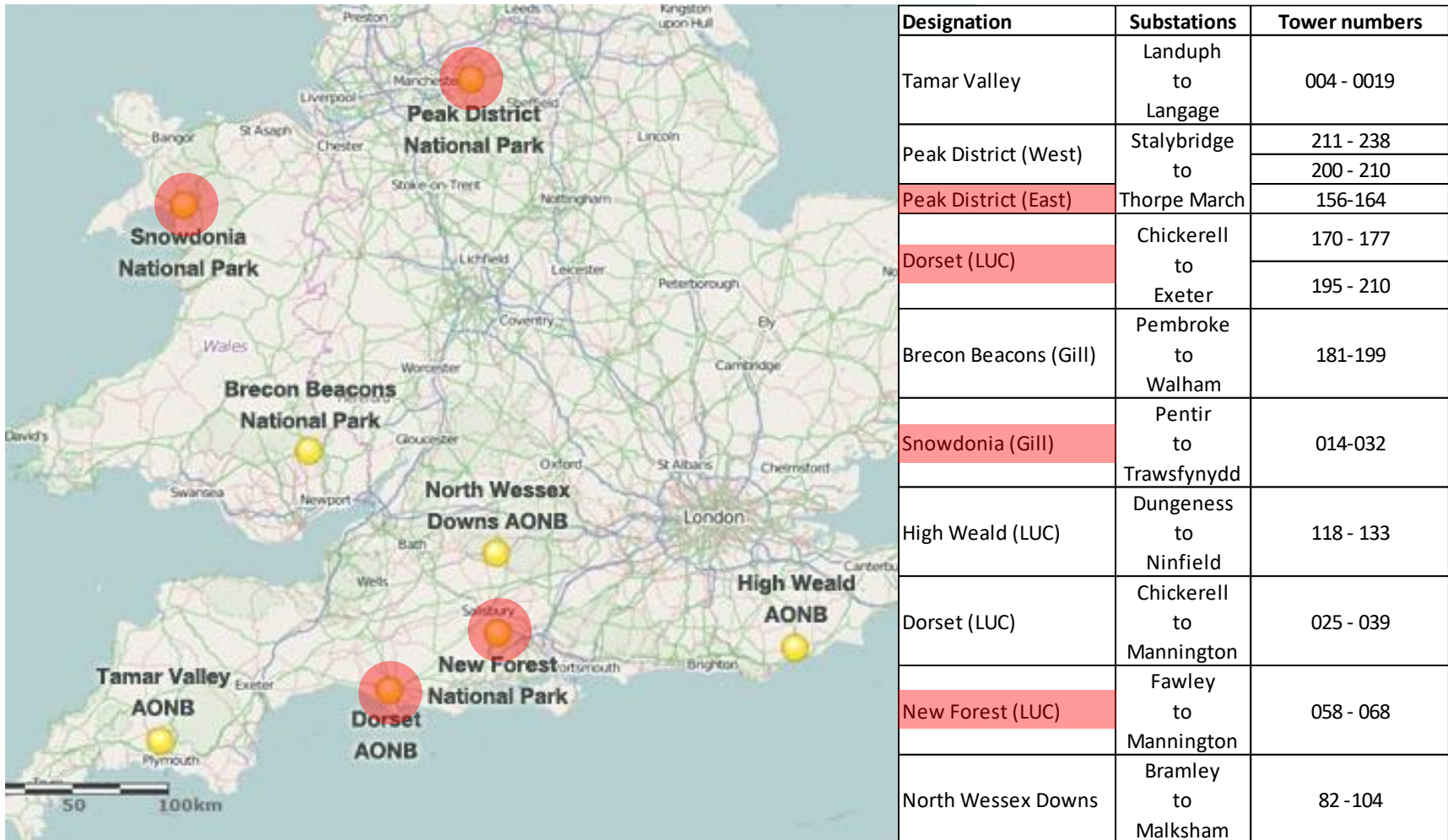
Stakeholder Advisory Group



Guiding Principles

- Result in greatest landscape enhancement benefits.
- result in greatest opportunities to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage whilst avoiding unacceptable environmental impacts
- result in greatest opportunities to encourage public understanding and enjoyment of the protected landscapes, including positive socio-economic impacts;
- Are technically feasible in context of the wider transmission system
- Are economical and efficient

VIP short-list: sections with the highest landscape and visual impact



Recent progress

1. Stakeholder Reference Group meeting held on 6th August 2015
2. Stakeholder Advisory Group prioritised four schemes on 8-9th September
3. Meeting with National Park Authority on 9th October 2015
4. Site visit with National Trust and NPA on 9th October 2015
5. Environmental surveys started 26th October 2015



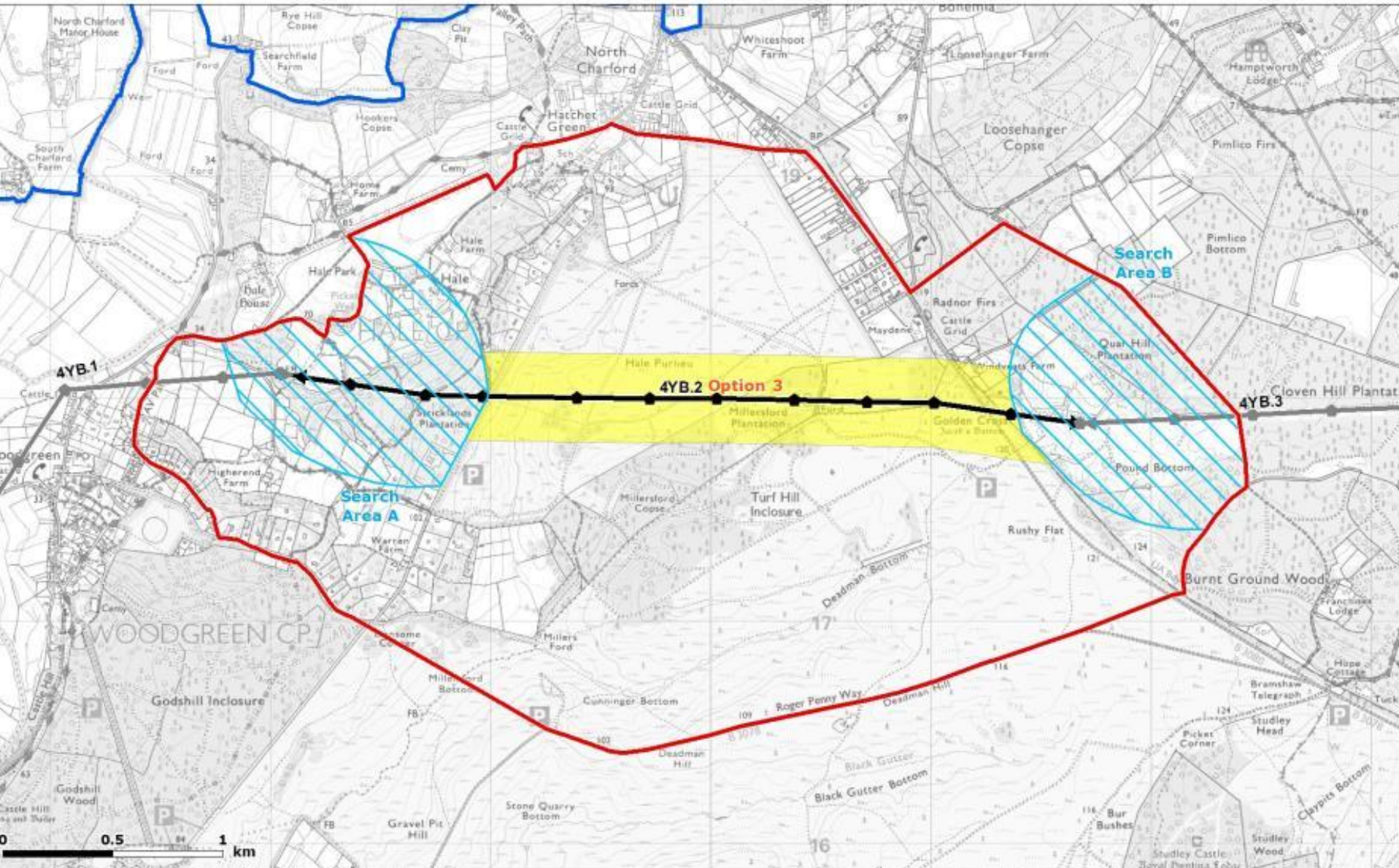
The proposal

- Replace existing line with 'direct buried' cables
- Removal of approx. 4km of overhead lines and 11 pylons
- Cable corridor parallel to existing alignment as shortest route to minimise disruption & vehicle movements
- Sealing end compounds potentially located in
 - Strickland Plantation (west)
 - Pound Bottom quarry (landfill site) (east)
- Work with stakeholders on how the land should be restored and an aftercare programme
- Environmental and local impacts will need to be assessed and addressed.

- Study area
- New Forest NP
- Potential route corridor
- Sealing end search area
- Assessed National Grid 400kV overhead line subsection
- Other National Grid 400kV overhead line
- 4YB.2 Pylon
- Other OHL pylon

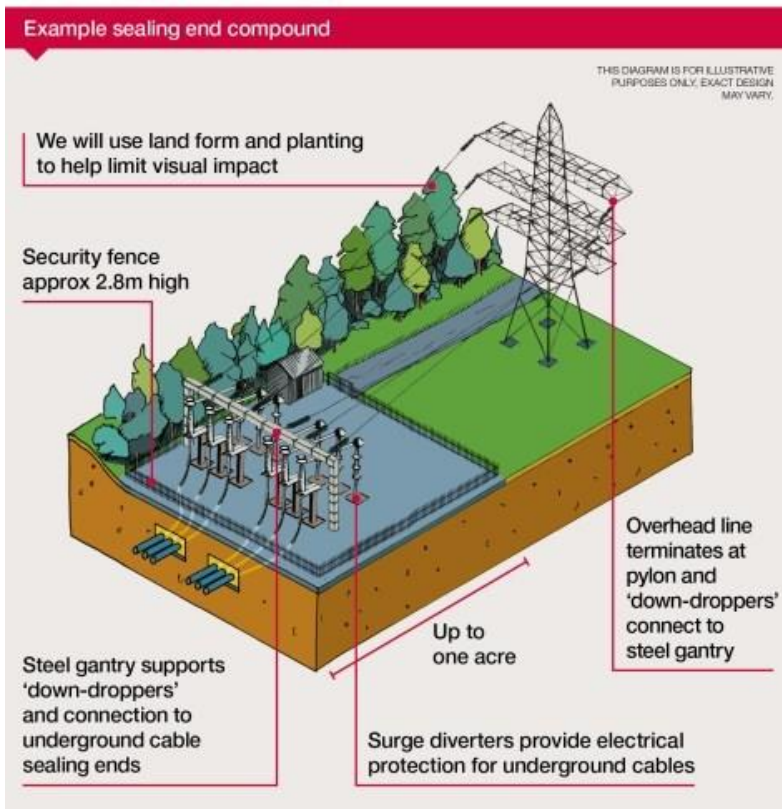
Source: Natural England, National Grid

Figure 5.8: Direct Burial Potential Routes



Sealing end compound

Diagram of a typical sealing end compound



An operational sealing end compound



Underground cables



Next steps

- Contact land owners Winter 2015/16
- Arrange community engagement in Winter/Spring 2016
- Agree and carry out environmental and engineering surveys through Spring – Summer 2016
- Identify route corridor and sealing end locations for new cables
- Consult on proposed development.
- Submit planning applications in mid 2017.
- Begin construction in Summer 2018, for completion 2021.
- Project would only go ahead with local support.

Landscape Enhancement Initiative

Building to a Winter 2016 launch

- Annex to policy approved by Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Trust Partnership appointed to administer
- Landscape assessors (Gillespies / LUC) appointed
- Website in development - user testing in Q4 2015
- First window for applications – Winter 2016 (two per year)
- First approvals panel – Summer 2016



Thank you



www.nationalgrid.com/VIP
visualimpact@nationalgrid.com

Environmental considerations

Considerations include:

- Ecological designations (International and National) - SAC, SPA, Ramsar, SSSI
- Protected species
- Complex areas of hydrology maintaining wet heathland
- Heathland restoration
- No scheduled monuments, but heritage assets are in the area, & potential for unknown archaeological interest

Potential opportunities include:

- Removal of the overhead line from open ridge area
- Reduced visual impact on properties and visitors
- Habitat restoration in SEC areas / Millersford Plantation
- Increased knowledge of local archaeology



Proposed consent regime

Primary Consents

- Sealing End Compounds (SECs) – T&CPA 1990
- Underground Cables – Permitted Development under GPDO 2015 (subject to HRA screening)
- Connecting existing OHL to SECs – possible s37 Electricity Act 1989
- Works within designated areas (including decommissioning of OHL) – HRA screening and ‘Assent’ for works required
- A range of other secondary consents may be required, e.g. PRow diversions; working near water etc.

Proposed Submission Strategy

- A single voluntary Environmental Report (ER) covering assessment of effects from whole project (including PD cable element) to be submitted with application(s)
- Not subject to EIA Regulations but ER would be commensurate with an Environmental Statement (ES)