

Mitigating the impact of existing lines on visual amenity in designated areas

The table below lists the National Grid lines which are possible candidates for funding via Ofgem's allowance for mitigating the visual impact of existing lines in designated areas (National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Scenic Areas) during the RIIO-T1 period.

They have been selected on the basis that:

- They are overhead line sections in designated areas where National Grid is planning to undertake significant works which complete during the RIIO-T1 period
- Work is planned for far enough in the future that plans could be changed
- They exclude 'fittings only' schemes where we only replace the insulator strings, spacers and dampers
- They include:
 1. Customer-driven re-conductoring schemes, where we are upgrading existing circuits by erecting higher-rated conductors (which also involves replacing insulation and possibly some tower strengthening)
 2. Non customer-driven full refurbishment schemes, where we replace the conductors and the fittings, and carry out sufficient steelwork repairs to ensure that the circuits will remain reliable for another 40 years

Notes:

- New build overhead lines are excluded, as mitigation in the form of the undergrounding of any parts of these would be covered by the 'Costs of meeting planning requirements' uncertainty mechanism
- Anything marked as 'customer-dependent' is subject to potential change beyond the control of National Grid
- This is an initial view, and the ultimate selection of candidate schemes would be subject to a stakeholder consultation progress, as yet not agreed

Area	Designation	Line route	Percentage of total line in National Park or AONB	Route length in National Park or AONB km (approx)	Customer-dependent?
Blackdown Hills	AONB	Exeter-Chickerell	41%	14.8	No
Brecon Beacons	National Park	Cilfynydd-Walham	41%	16.9	No
Cotswolds	AONB	Cilfynydd-Melksham	30%	15.7	No
Kent Downs	AONB	Kemsley-Rowdown	25%	17.8	Yes
Peak District	National Park	Stalybridge-Woodhead Tunnel	80%	12.8	No
Snowdonia	National Park	Pentir-Trawsfynydd	33%	15.4	Yes
South Downs	National Park	Bolney-Lovedean	54%	34.9	No
Suffolk Coasts & Heaths	AONB	Bramford-Sizewell	5%	4.2	Yes
Tamar Valley	AONB	Langage-Landulph	37%	7.8	No