

# factsheet

## Our transmission infrastructure and its effect on local people, communities and the local economy

When we develop new infrastructure projects we consider the potential impact our work may have on local people, communities and the local economy. We need to understand the socio-economic impact of the options available to us.

We look at the potential effects of a project in three specific areas – local economic activity; traffic and transport, and aviation and defence. Our assessment of socio-economic effects is one part of the supporting information we take into account when making decisions on our projects.

In addition to these three specific areas, we also take account of other broad environmental factors.

These include the potential impact of our projects on the landscape, visual amenity, ecology, historic environment, water, local air quality, noise and vibration, soils and geology.



### Information we take into account

The table below highlights some of the socio-economic factors and other information that we typically consider.

Factors
Aggregate and mineral resource areas
Agricultural land
Community, health and educational facilities
European long-distance footpaths
Harbour areas and ports, including shipping lanes
Local airfields
Local businesses
Local transport networks
Major utilities and other installations
Visitor attractions
Military airfields, sites and practice areas
National parks
National tourist routes
National trails
National Trust land
Offshore features (including pipelines, cables, shellfish production areas and dredging areas)
Passenger airports
Previously developed land of national and regional importance
Trans-European networks (roads or walking/cycling routes)
Urban areas (from Agricultural Land Classification Dataset)
Windfarms (onshore and offshore locations)
Woodland/forestry
World Heritage Sites

Policy
National Policy Statements
National Planning Policy Framework
Technical Advice Note 13: Tourism (1997) – administered by The Welsh Government
Structure and Local Plans
Core Strategies, Local Development Frameworks (including their evidence bases)
Draft or approved Local Economic Development Strategies
Draft or approved Tourism Development Strategies

## Factors we do not take into account

We do not assess:

**Wider national economic benefits** – these would be the same for all the options we consider and would not help in deciding between options. These wider benefits are taken into account by decision-making bodies such as The Planning Inspectorate.

**House prices** – in common with other planning decisions, the effect on property value is not a material consideration. House prices are also not considered in the relevant National Policy Statement.

When we're routeing new infrastructure we seek to avoid or minimise the impact on towns, villages and properties. We also aim to maximise the distances between them and our infrastructure.

We do this because of amenity and safety considerations, as well as taking account of the ease of future maintenance.

We will consider visual effects on properties as part of our assessment work. If we need to acquire land or rights over land, we will enter into an agreement with the landowner affected.

## National Grid socio-economics research

We know that people are concerned about the potential socio-economic impact of our projects. To improve our understanding of this important topic, we commissioned an independent academic study. The research included a range of surveys designed to help us better understand the socio-economic effects of our projects (both gas and electricity). We focused on factors such as the impact on local businesses, as well as people living in and using the local area – and in particular businesses who rely on tourism for their income.

## Findings

The vast majority of businesses surveyed close to the chosen project areas stated that there had been no impact to their business operation following construction of one of our projects. They also indicated that it was not likely to be an issue for those businesses close to a proposed National Grid project.

Visitors and local people surveyed close to the chosen projects stated that a National Grid project had not affected their behaviour or spend in the local area where infrastructure already existed. They also indicated that it would not affect their behaviour or spend where a project was proposed to be built.

A copy of the research report is available on our website (link below).



These findings are useful and highlight that the majority of people and businesses do not expect to be affected by a National Grid project. However, we will continue to gather more evidence about the socio-economic impact of our work, both for current and future projects.

### Supporting information:

#### A study into the effects of National Grid major infrastructure projects on socio-economic factors

[www2.nationalgrid.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=38741](http://www2.nationalgrid.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=38741)

#### Our approach to the design and routeing of new electricity transmission lines

[www2.nationalgrid.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=13794](http://www2.nationalgrid.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=13794)

#### Our approach to Options Appraisal

[www2.nationalgrid.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=13792](http://www2.nationalgrid.com/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=13792)