

Electricity  
Transmission

# Environment consultation

Results summary

February 2019

national**grid**



# Background and context

As part of our stakeholder engagement on the topic of the environment, we ran an online consultation in the summer and autumn of 2018. Its purpose was to help us understand what stakeholders want from us in the RIIO-2 period, which runs from 2021 to 2026.

This consultation covered the same topics and questions as our [June 2018 environmental workshop](#), and the results are summarised in this report

The consultation relates to the Electricity Transmission part of National Grid (i.e. the Transmission Owner, not the System Operator)

NOTE: Responses to this consultation alone cannot be taken as a representative view of our overall stakeholder population, and have therefore been combined with input from our other stakeholder engagement activities to inform our [RIIO-2 playback consultation](#), particularly Chapter 9 on Communities and the Environment. This combined feedback will also inform our business plan submissions to Ofgem, the first of which will be made on 1 July 2019.

# Contents

The consultation covered four broad topics. You can click on the headings below to jump to each section:

1. [Our overall carbon impact](#)
2. [The visual impact of our assets](#)
3. [The impact of our construction activities](#)
4. [Managing our land](#)

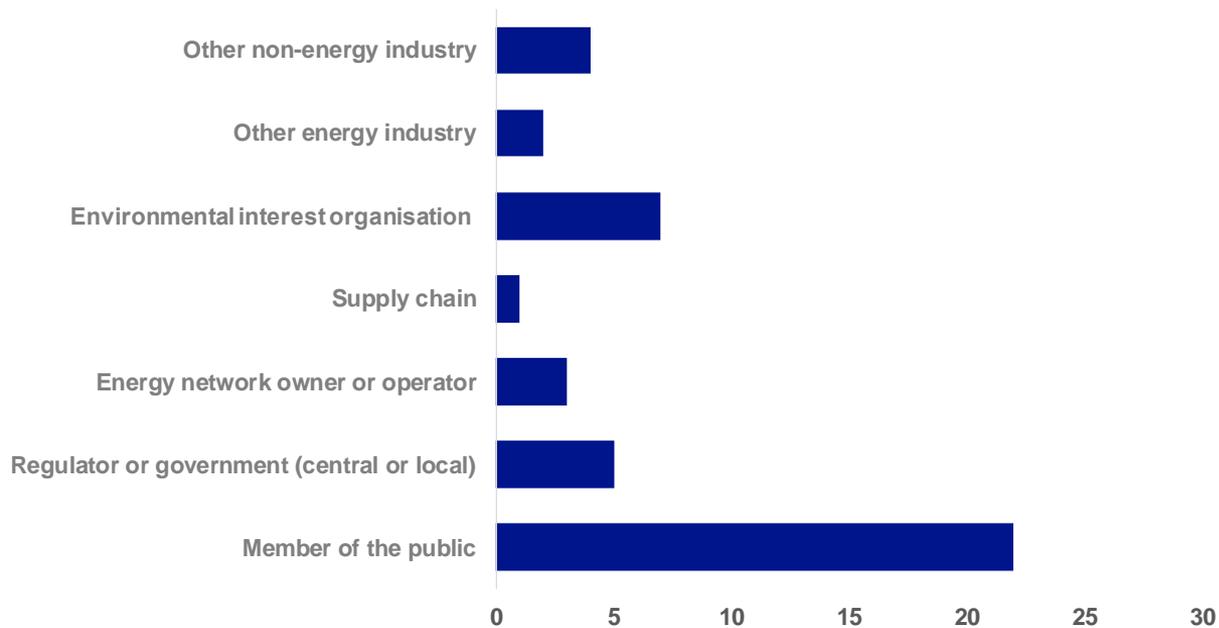
[Who responded to the consultation?](#)

[Did people feel able to respond to the questions?](#)

# Consultation respondees

Overall, 44 people responded to the consultation

We asked respondents to classify themselves into stakeholder segments, with the majority being members of the public with a particular interest in our activities, and especially in the visual impact section of the consultation



	Member of the public	Regulator or government (central or local)	Energy network owner or operator	Supply chain	Environmental interest organisation	Other energy industry	Other non-energy industry
Number of repondents	22	5	3	1	7	2	4

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# 1. Our overall carbon impact

Our consultation provided an overview of our current approach to decision making and how carbon dioxide and other emissions play a part in this

Seven people responded to this part of the consultation, most of whom said they were impacted by this topic to some extent. Their key feedback was:

- We should consider whole life costs and whole life carbon impact when making investment decisions in RIIO-2
- We need to continue to focus on SF<sub>6</sub> leakage
- We should consider investing in lower loss conductors

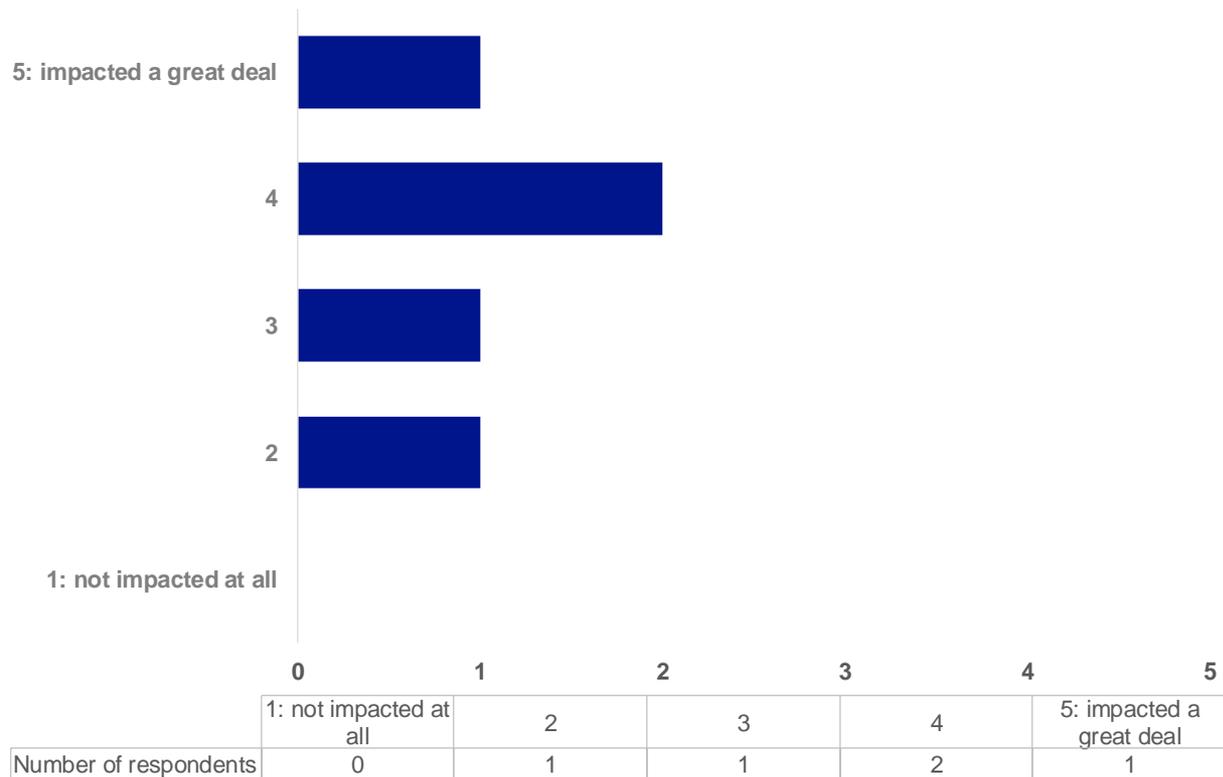
Details of responses to all questions for this section can be found on the next few pages

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# Level of impact

We asked respondents how impacted they are by this topic

*On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not impacted at all and 5 is impacted a great deal, how impacted are you (or those you represent) by our carbon impact?*

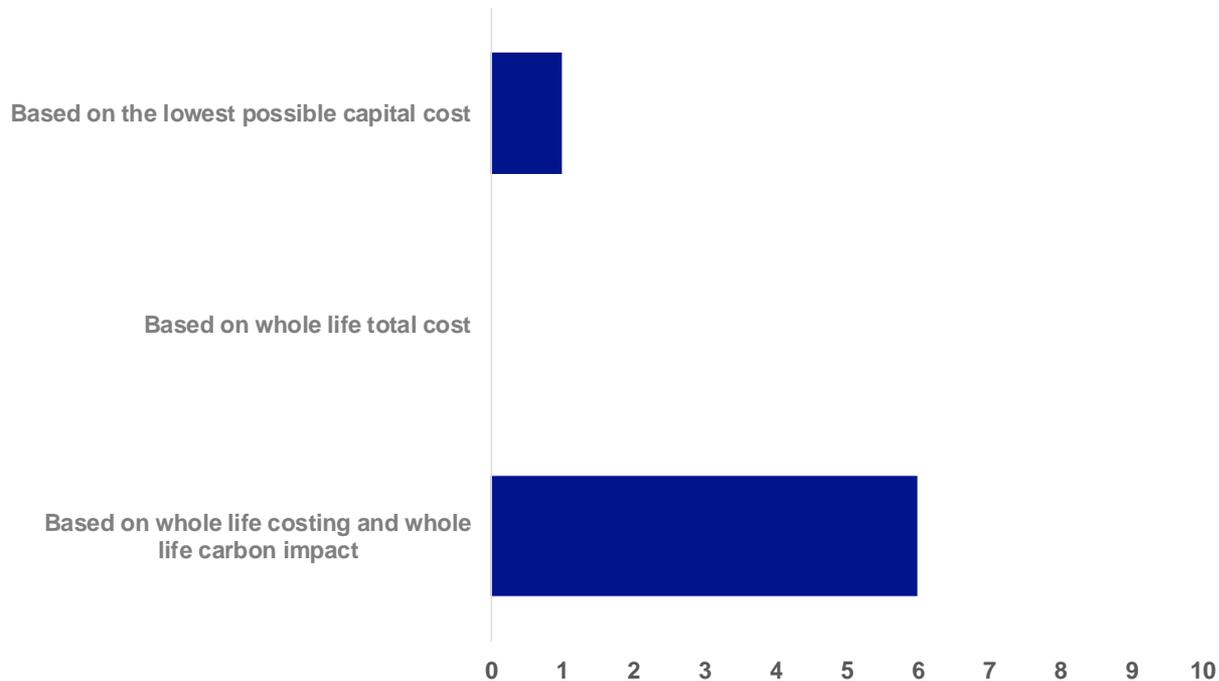


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# Future investment approach

Carbon impact

*How should we make our future investment decisions?*

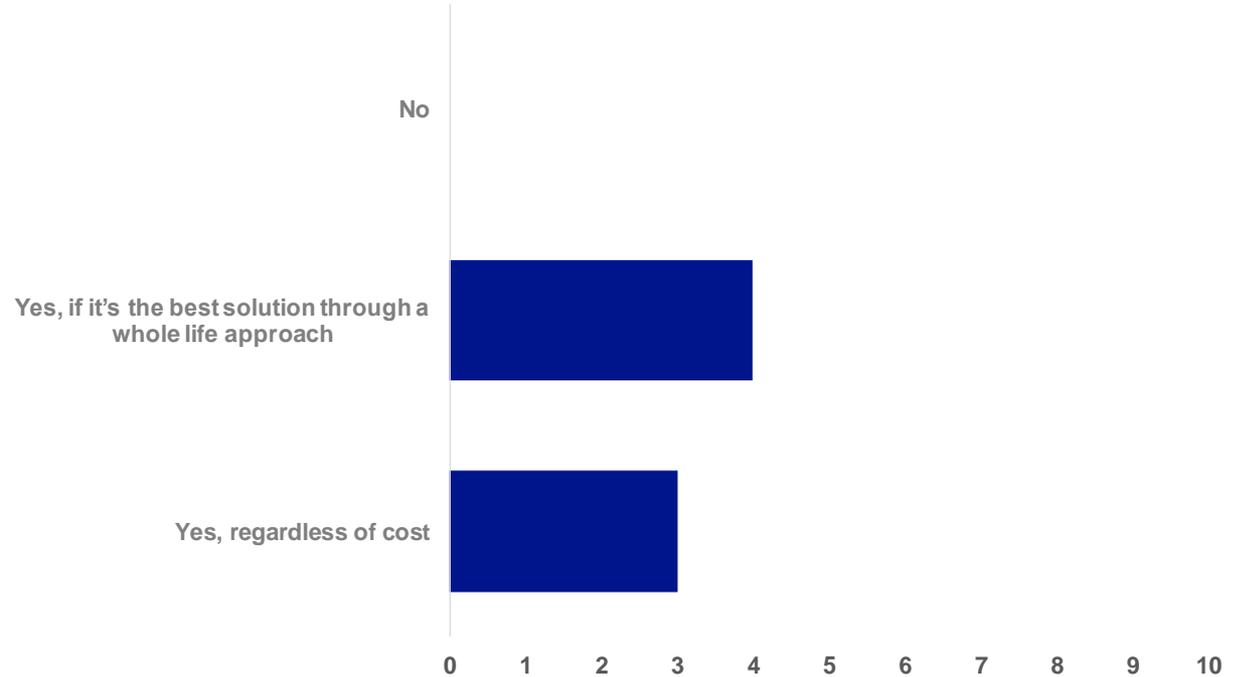


	Based on whole life costing and whole life carbon impact	Based on whole life total cost	Based on the lowest possible capital cost
Number of respondents	6	0	1

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# Lower loss equipment

*Should we invest in lower loss equipment?*

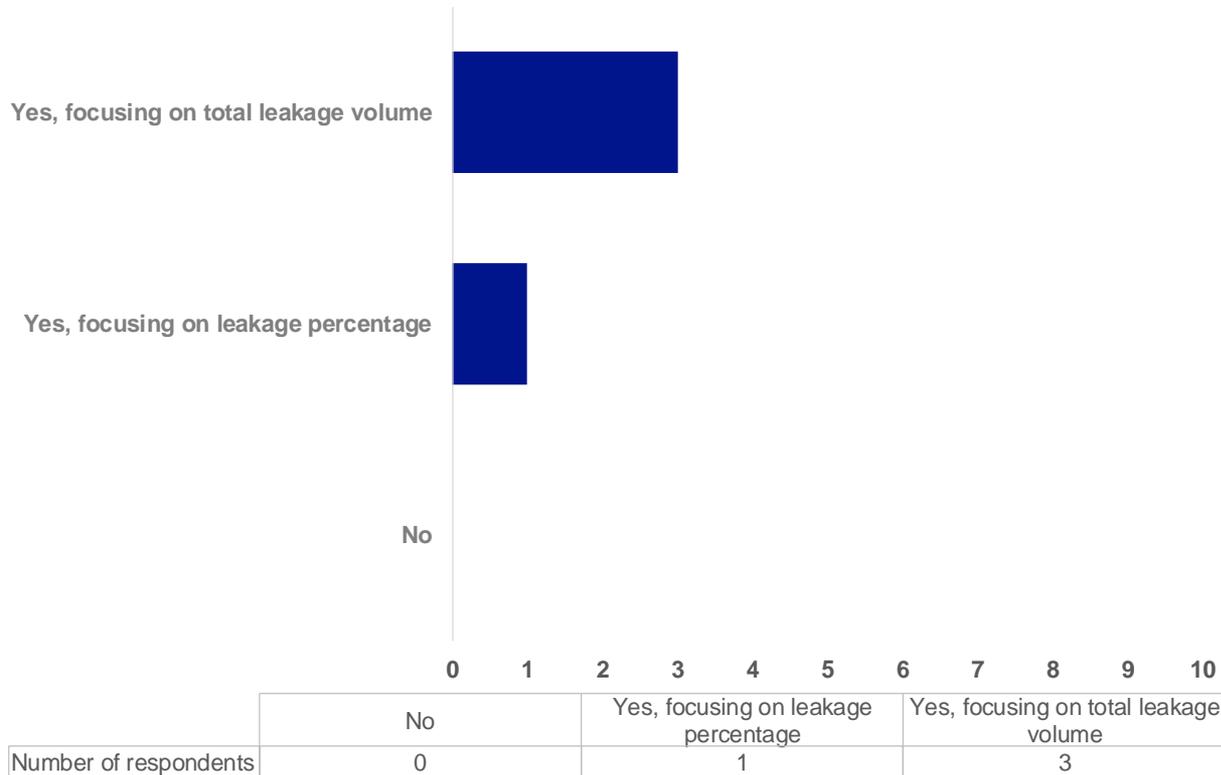


	Yes, regardless of cost	Yes, if it's the best solution through a whole life approach	No
Number of respondents	3	4	0

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# Sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>)

*Should we continue to focus on SF<sub>6</sub> leakage?*



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## 2. The visual impact of our assets

Our consultation provided an overview of our current approach to new and existing lines

34 people responded to this part of the consultation, the majority of whom said they were impacted a great deal by this topic. Their key feedback was:

- Our current approach for new lines focuses too much on keeping bills down and not enough on visual impact
- We should propose underground cables for all new routes where technically possible
- The current Visual Impact Provision scheme should continue and potentially be expanded in RIIO-2
- We should balance the visual impact of new lines against the impact of underground cables on land and habitats

Details of responses to all questions for this section can be found on the next few pages

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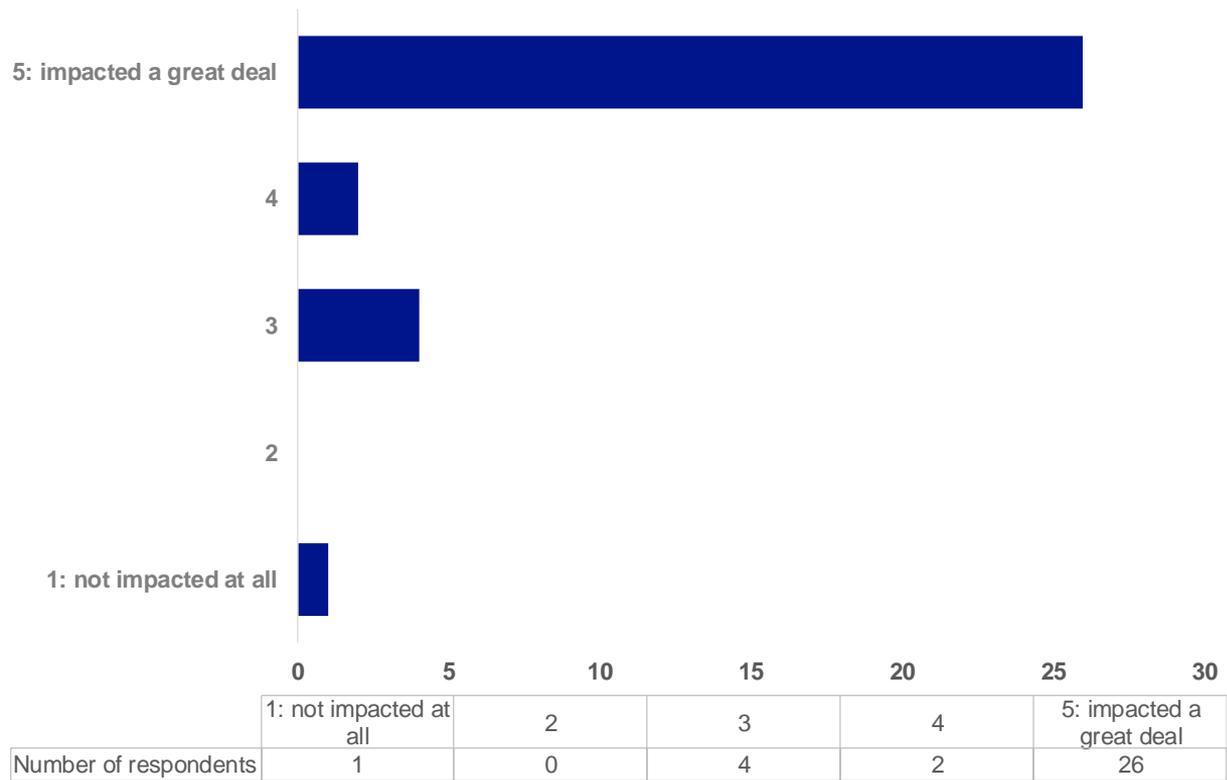
# Level of impact

Visual impact

We asked respondents how impacted they are by this topic

*On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not impacted at all and 5 is impacted a great deal, how impacted are you (or those you represent) by our carbon impact?*

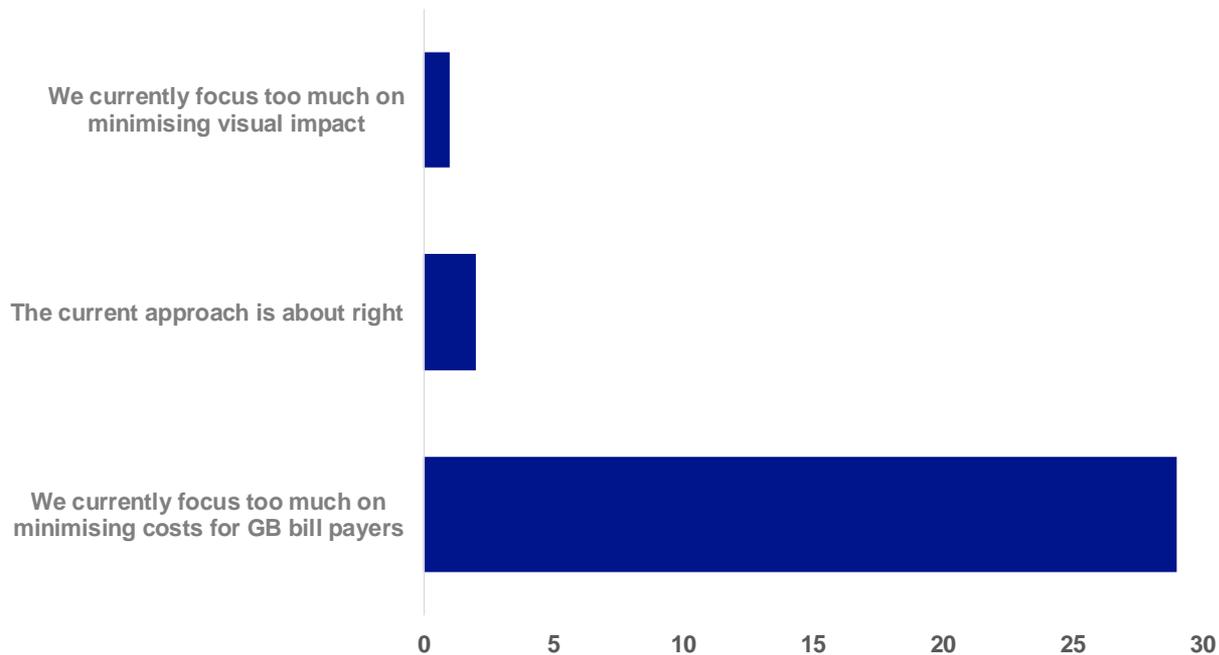
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# Planning approach for new projects

Visual impact

*What are your views on our approach to obtaining planning consent for new projects?*



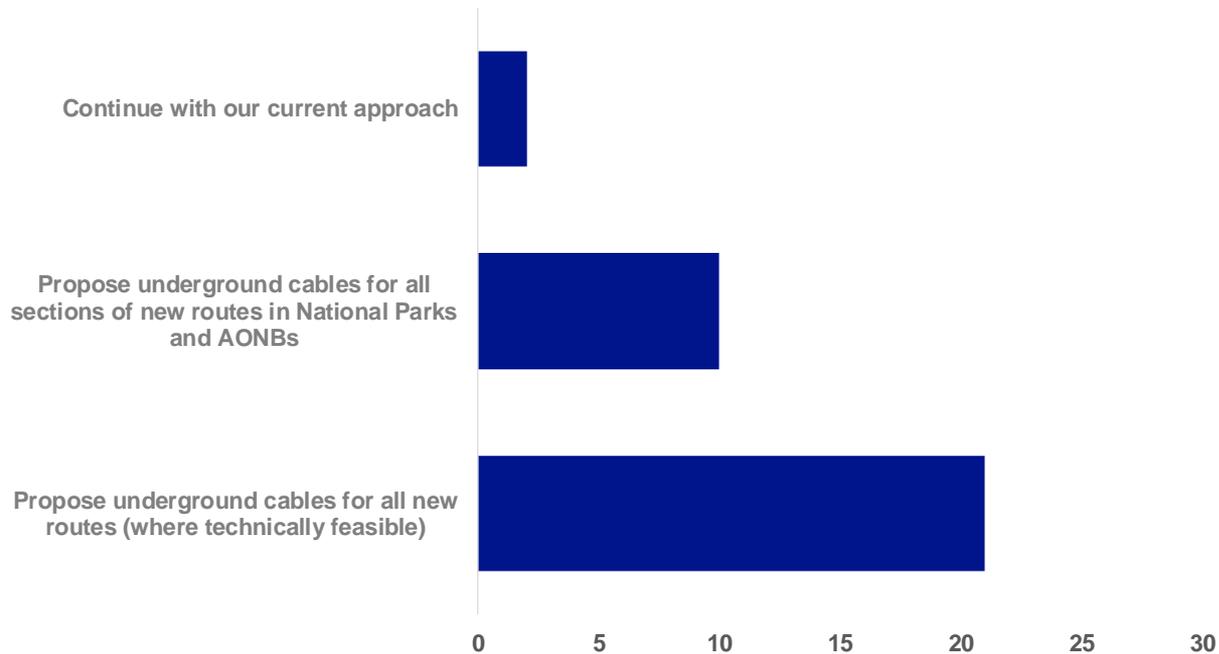
	We currently focus too much on minimising costs for GB bill payers	The current approach is about right	We currently focus too much on minimising visual impact
Number of respondents	29	2	1

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# Approach to undergrounding

Visual impact

*Should our default approach be to...?*

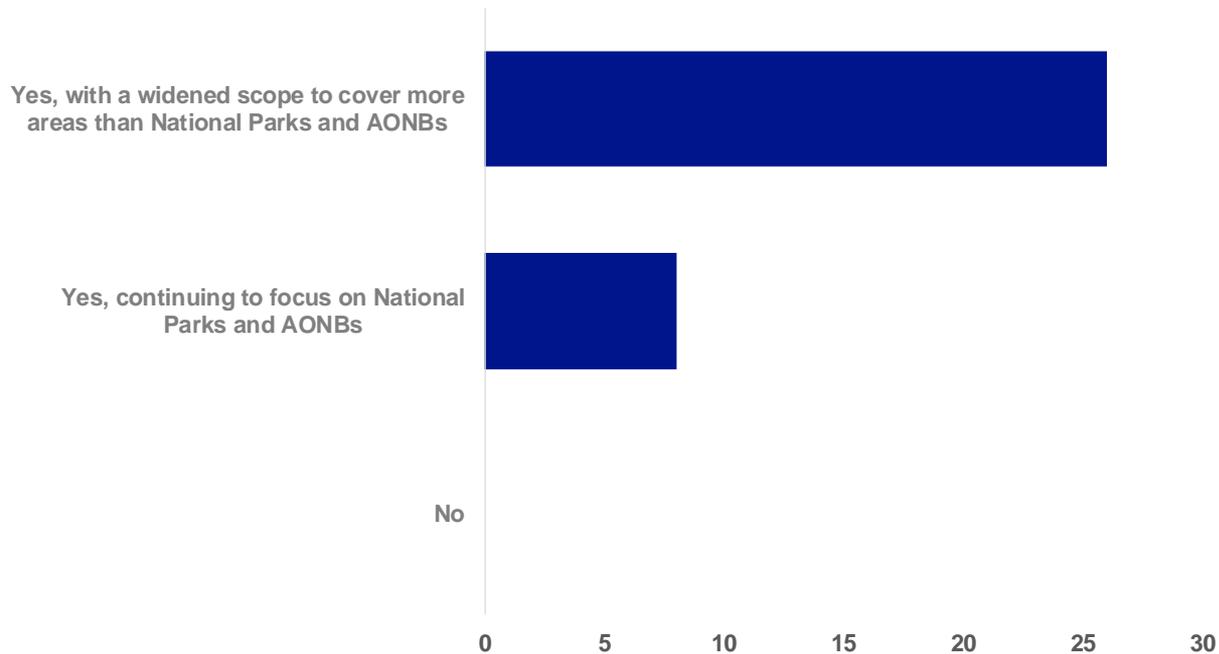


	Propose underground cables for all new routes (where technically feasible)	Propose underground cables for all sections of new routes in National Parks and AONBs	Continue with our current approach
Number of respondents	21	10	2

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# Visual Impact Provision scheme

*Should there be a scheme to address the visual impact of existing overhead lines and other assets in RIIO-2?*



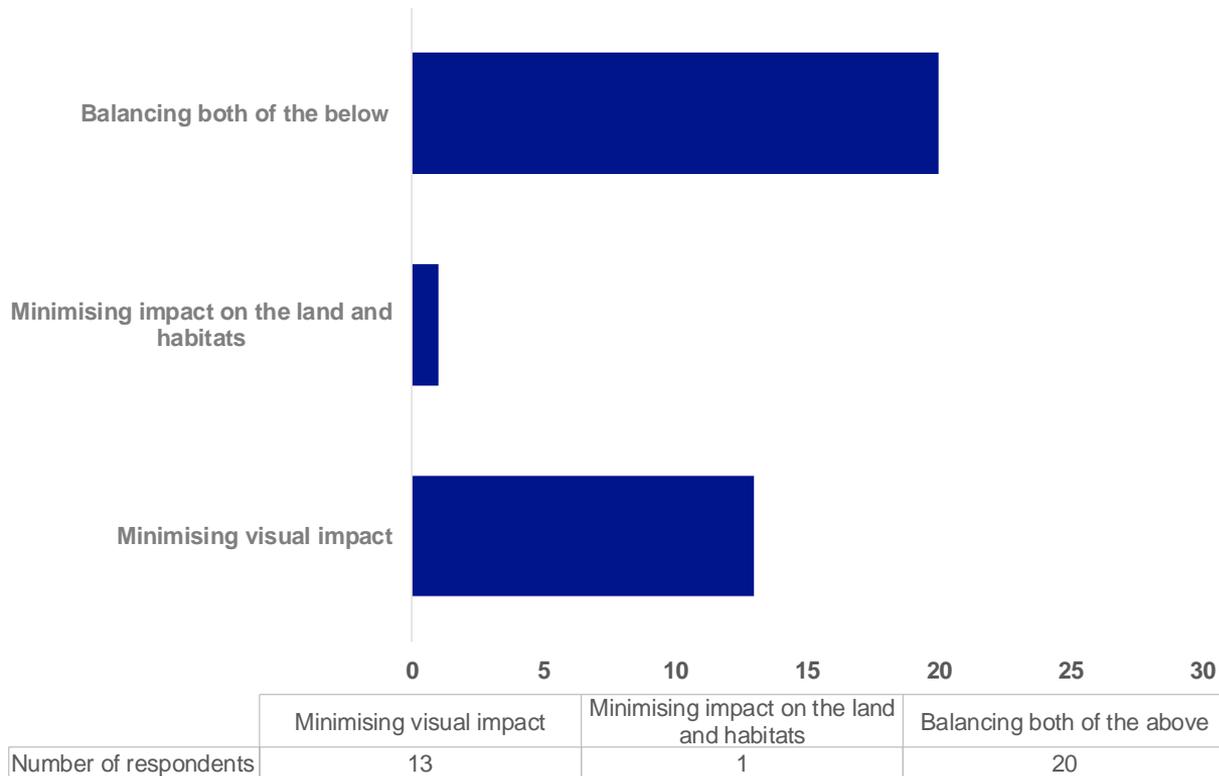
	No	Yes, continuing to focus on National Parks and AONBs	Yes, with a widened scope to cover more areas than National Parks and AONBs
Number of respondents	0	8	26

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# Environmental considerations

Visual impact

*And when considering whether to use underground cables, do you think our focus should be on ...?*



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### 3. The impact of our construction activities

Our consultation provided an overview of our current construction approach and some of the options available to us

21 people responded to this part of the consultation, the majority of whom said they were impacted a great deal by this topic. Their key feedback was:

- We should focus on minimising the local impact of our construction activities
- We should look to minimise our carbon emissions
- We should look to use carbon offsetting to go carbon neutral
- We should focus on environmental net gain as long as costs are reasonable
- We should be encouraged to go beyond our legal obligations, even if that means increasing costs

Details of responses to all questions for this section can be found on the next few pages

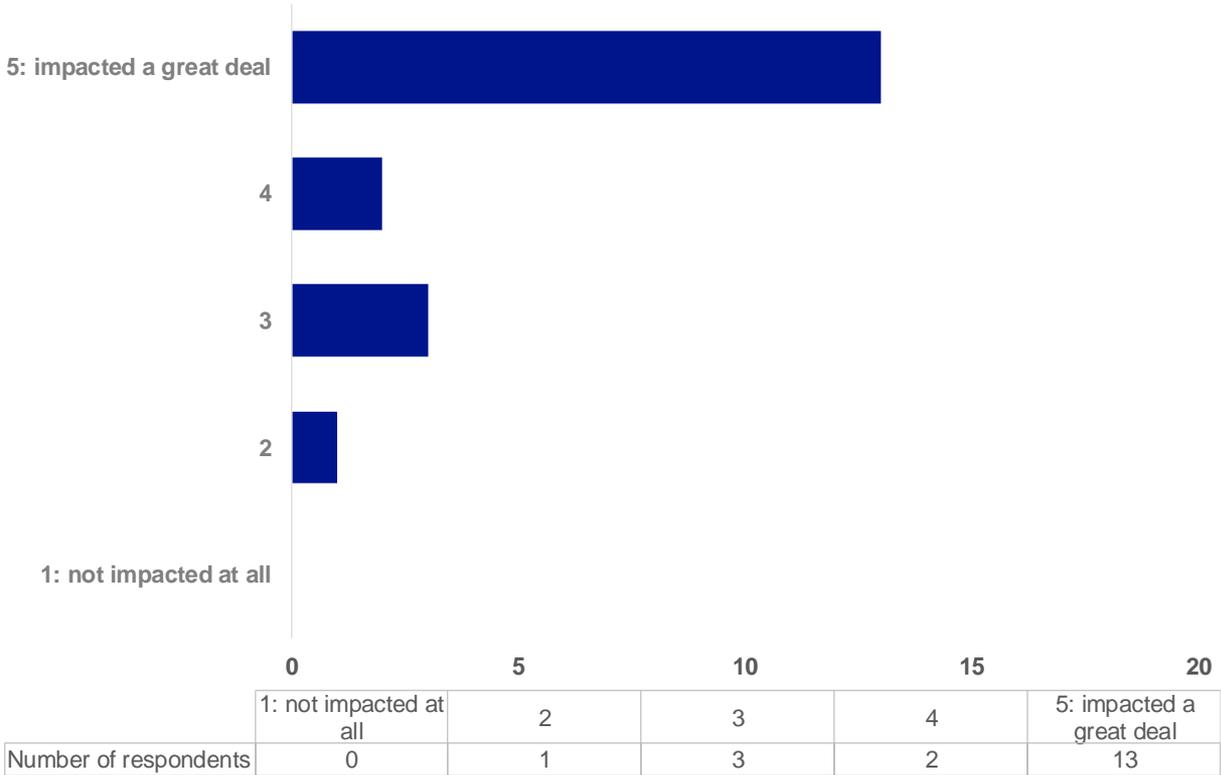
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# Level of impact

We asked respondents how impacted they are by this topic

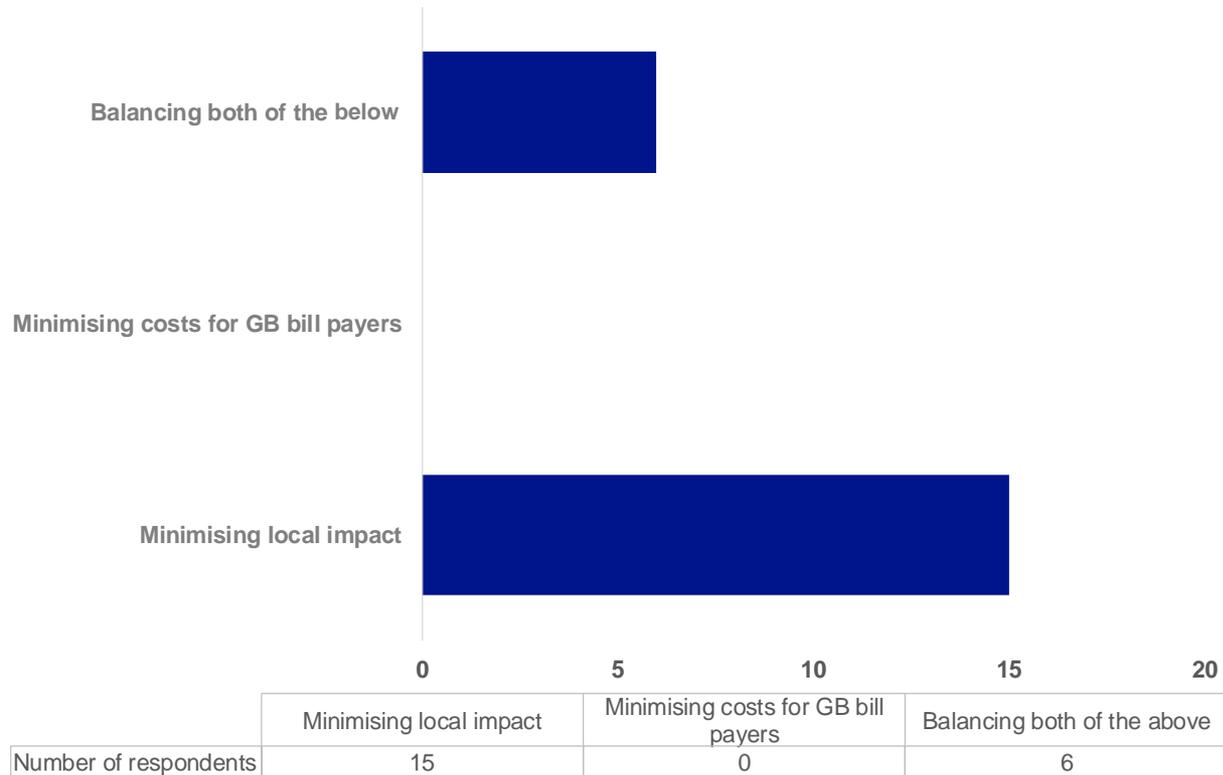
*On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not impacted at all and 5 is impacted a great deal, how impacted are you (or those you represent) by our carbon impact?*

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# Construction considerations

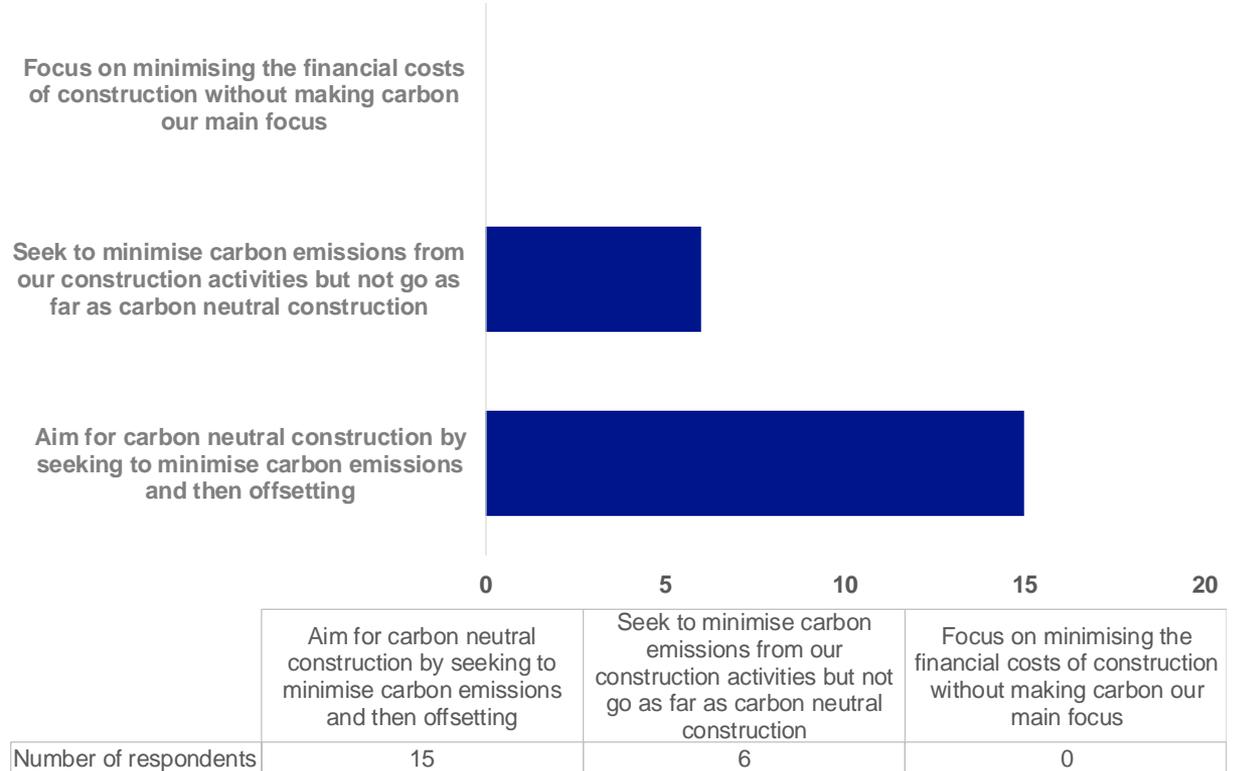
*Do you think our main focus should be on ...?*



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# Approach to carbon

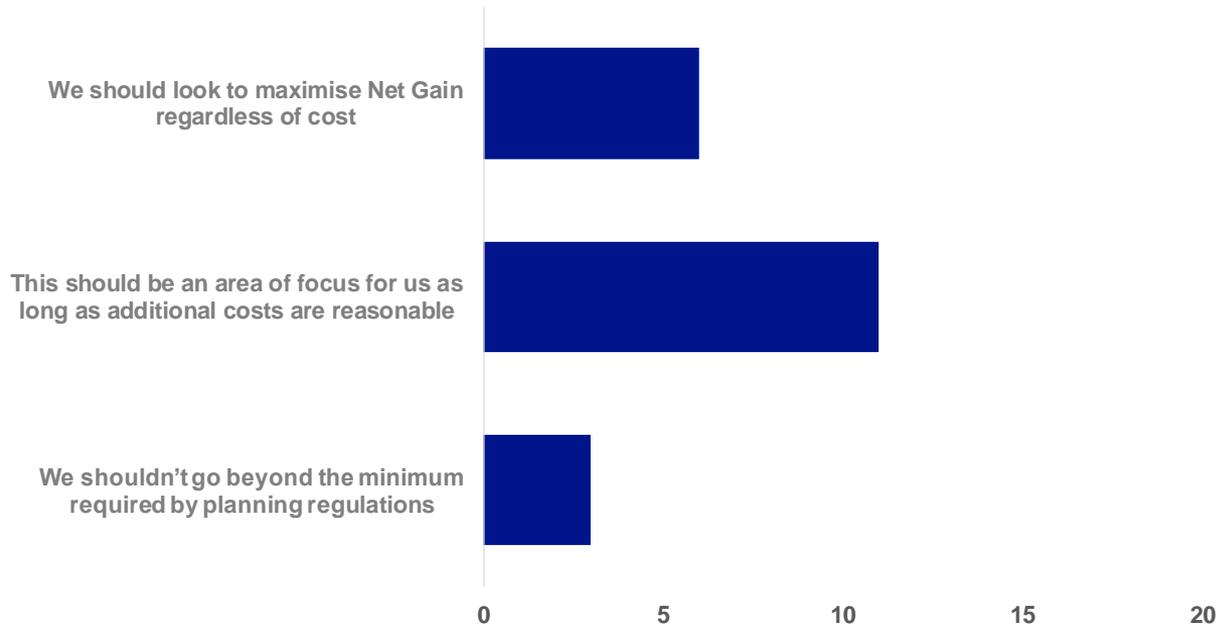
Should we...?



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# Environmental Net Gain

*What are your views on how we should approach environmental Net Gain in RIIO-2?*

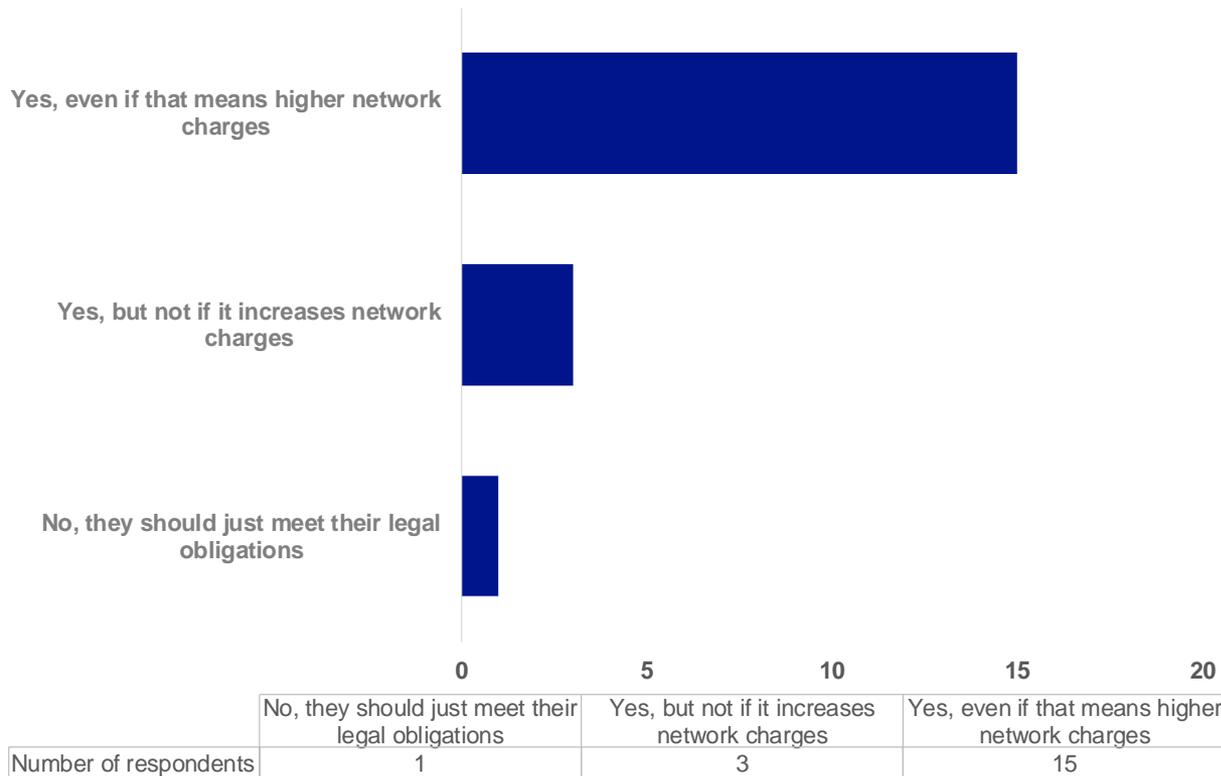


	We shouldn't go beyond the minimum required by planning regulations	This should be an area of focus for us as long as additional costs are reasonable	We should look to maximise Net Gain regardless of cost
Number of respondents	3	11	6

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# Overall emissions

*Should networks be encouraged to go beyond legal obligations and focus more on their overall carbon emissions?*



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## 4. Managing our land

Our consultation provided an overview of our approach to managing our non-operational land

19 people responded to this part of the consultation, the majority of whom said they were impacted a great deal by this topic. Their key feedback was:

- We should do more to support the environment through our social responsibility framework
- There was no clear view on how/if we should continue our Natural Grid programme

Details of responses to all questions for this section can be found on the next few pages

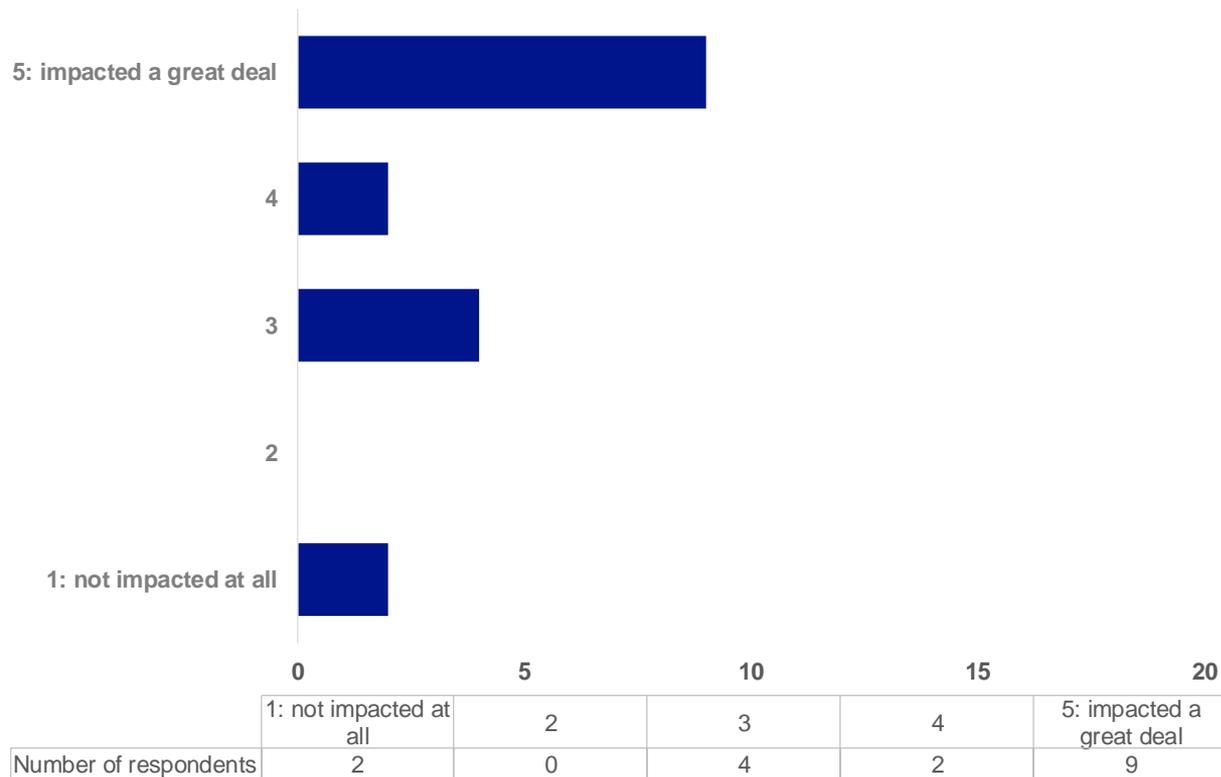
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# Level of impact

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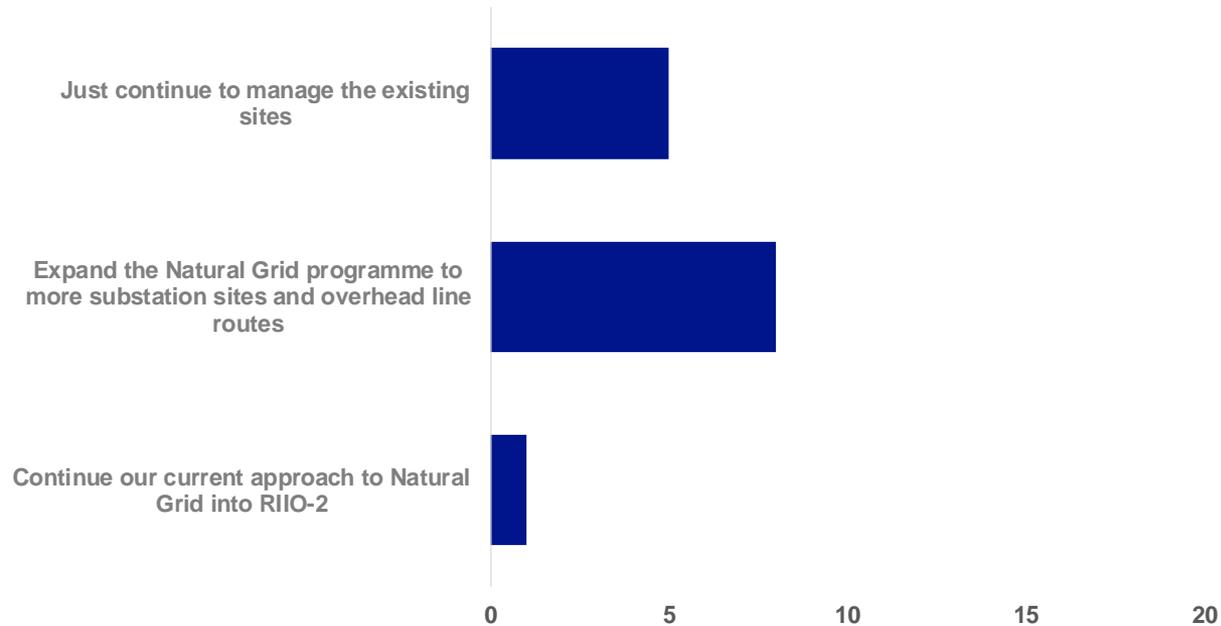
*On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not impacted at all and 5 is impacted a great deal, how impacted are you (or those you represent) by our carbon impact?*

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# Future approach to Natural Grid

Should we...?

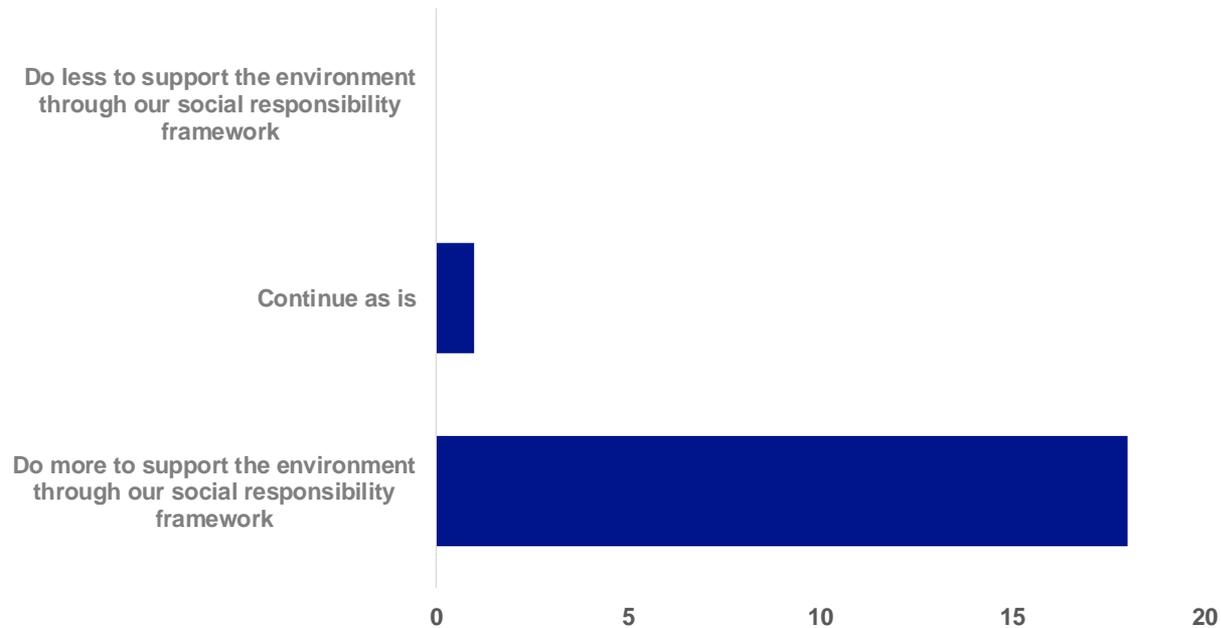


	Continue our current approach to Natural Grid into RIIO-2	Expand the Natural Grid programme to more substation sites and overhead line routes	Just continue to manage the existing sites
Number of respondents	1	8	5

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# Environment and social responsibility

Should we...?



	Do more to support the environment through our social responsibility framework	Continue as is	Do less to support the environment through our social responsibility framework
Number of respondents	18	1	0

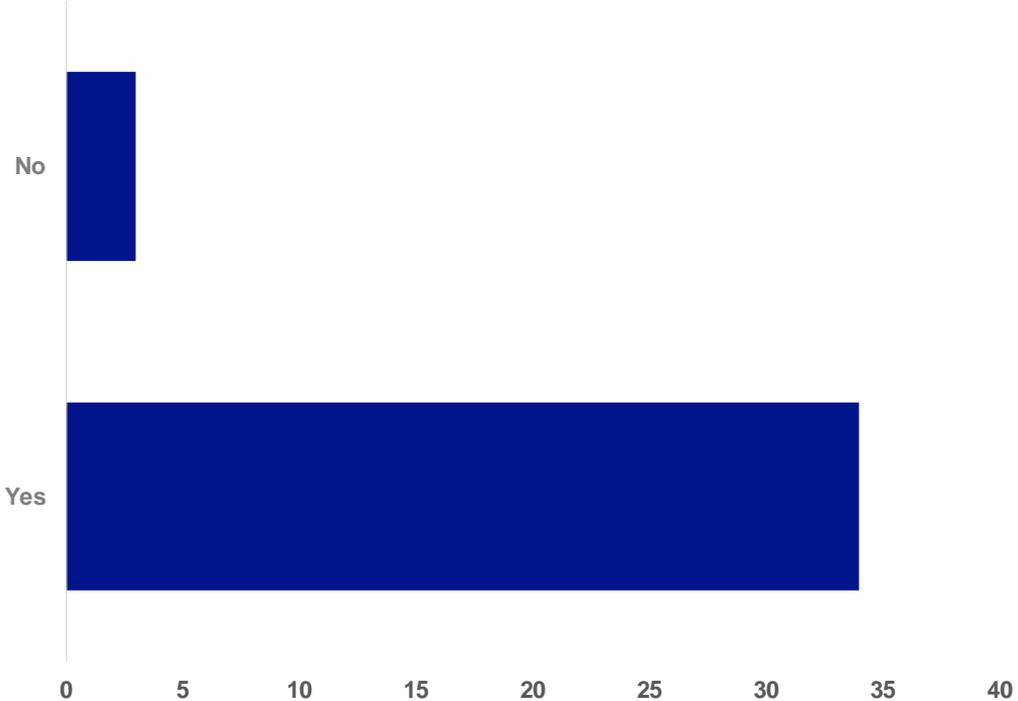
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# Ability to respond

We asked respondents whether they felt able to respond to the consultation

*Based on your previous knowledge and the information available to you within this consultation, did you feel able to answer these consultation questions?*

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	Yes	No
Number of respondents	34	3

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Visit our website: <https://www.nationalgridET.com>