

**Hale Parish Council**  
**VIP Feedback received from Parishioners to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018**  
**Updated for National Grid comments received 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- 1. The 'categories' below are the best efforts of HPC clerk to collect similar feedback together from the mass of words that have been submitted. These 'categories' are meant to be indicative and the clerk accepts that some feedback may be considered in a number of different 'categories'**
- 2. Similarly, not every word of every letter received has been included. This is the clerk's best attempt to draw out key concerns from the letters received. HPC councillors have full copies of the correspondence for their review.**
- 3. HPC does NOT endorse the comments below as factually correct. Indeed, there are several comments which HPC believes are factually incorrect but HPC would prefer to share this misinformation with National Grid and receive definitive guidance to share with Parishioners, rather than risking further confusion by trying to correct the material.**
- 4. Cllr Hartas, at the request of both Ben Smith (National Grid) and HPC, hosted a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August for commoners and riders to discuss livestock issues and animal movements in more detail. Those present asked for it to be made clear that their participation in this meeting should not necessarily be construed as support for the project to underground the cables, but they want to do as much as they can to safeguard animals, riders and drivers, should the project go ahead. That meeting generated further 'livestock' questions and issues which to avoid duplication are not reproduced in this document.**

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JB - No specific reason given

COST - Cost

NG1 - National Grid: Poor communication

NG2 - National Grid: Deceit

R1 - Resident: Disruption  
R2 - Resident: Property structural damage  
R3 - Resident: Ability to sell property

A1 - Animal M'ments: Crossing points  
A2 - Animal M'ments: Access to water on mire  
A3 - Accidents to stock  
A4 - General concerns about ability to restore w'life

E1 - Heat from cables below surface  
E2 - General concerns about ability to restore ground  
E3 - Soil PH balance  
E4 - Disruption to protected species habitat  
E5 - Disruption to water flow onto mire

B1 - Benefit Concern: Short life of cable  
B2 - Benefit Concern: not a visual blight  
B3 - Benefit concern; general 'cost' too high

HPC Ref	Date received	Issue #1	Issue #2	Issue #3	Issue #4	Issue #5	Issue #6	Issues Fwded	Response from NG Rec'd	Response F'warded to writer
1.001	25-Jun	E2	B1					07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.002	23-Jul	R1						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.003	23-Jul	R2	R3	B1				07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.004	27-Jul	JB						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.005	28-Jul	A1	R1	R3				07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.006	28-Jul	E2	E5	E4	A3	E3	COST	07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.007	29-Jul	B1						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.008	29-Jul	R1	R3					07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.009	30-Jul	E4	COST					07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.010	30-Jul	A2	A1	A4	B2			07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.011	30-Jul	COST						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.012	31-Jul	NG1	NG2	E1	E4	R1		07-Sep-18		16-Oct-18
1.013	31-Jul	B2	E2	B1	R1			07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.014	02-Aug	B3						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.015	02-Aug	R1	A4	COST				07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.016	03-Aug	E2	COST	B3				07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.017	13-Aug	B3						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.018	13-Aug	JB						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.019	14-Aug	B2	B3					07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.020	15-Aug	COST						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.021	15-Aug	JB						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.022	16-Aug	B3						07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.023	17-Aug	B1	E2					07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.024	18-Aug	COST	E2	R1				07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.025	22-Aug	E2	A3	E1	E4	R1		07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.026	23-Aug	NG1	E2	E4	A1	E3 & E1	R1	07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.027	27-Aug	A1	A3					07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18
1.028	28-Aug	E2	NG1	B3				07-Sep-18	09-Oct-18	16-Oct-18

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**R1: Resident Disruption/ Loss of use of Purlieu**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.026	<p>On the original proposal to follow the line of the existing eight pylons only a very small number of homes were directly affected by the proximity of the construction work. Route C increased this to almost 20 homes. Route E now impacts over 60 homes. It is hard to believe, given all the other problems, that such disruption to so many people can seriously be contemplated by anyone who has bothered to think this through. It suggests nobody has seriously thought it through except for those of us who oppose it.</p> <p><i>The latest route is the result of years of detailed technical work and extensive discussions with stakeholders. It also takes into account feedback from local residents about protecting the sensitive ecology of the Purlieu by moving further to the north. If the project goes ahead, we will work with the local community to minimise disruption.</i></p>	
0108PG	<p>It is claimed that construction will last for two years in stages but for those with homes along Forest Rd the misery and disruption will be for the whole period as the haul road will be in use throughout. There will be between 50 and 98 HGV movements a day – giving 24 months of noise, dust and vibration within 50m of back gardens.</p> <p><i>We estimate that there will be an average total of 75 vehicle movements per day - up to 50 of these could be HGVs. We will have more information on traffic management within the site and on local roads at our public consultation events early next year.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our planning application, we will also demonstrate how we will manage issues such as noise, dust and vibration. We are fully signed up to industry best practice and our main contractor will also be part of the Considerate Constructor Scheme.</i></p>	
1.025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the congestion caused by hundreds of lorries on B and C roads for several years</li> <li>• the closure of several roads for undefinable periods</li> </ul> <p><i>We estimate that there will be an average total of 75 vehicle movements per day - up to 50 of these could be HGVs. We will have more information on traffic management within the site and on local roads at our public consultation events early next year.</i></p> <p><i>At the beginning of the project, a temporary, short-term close of Lady's Mile would be required. We would not require any additional road closures during construction.</i></p>	
1.024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The disruption and potential issues for residents seem to be increased with the latest proposed route - which will require even more land to be decimated as the route is longer.</li> </ul> <p><i>The latest route is the result of years of detailed technical work and extensive discussions with stakeholders. It also takes into account</i></p>	

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	<i>feedback from local residents about protecting the sensitive ecology of the Purlieu by moving further to the north. If the project goes ahead, we will work with the local community to minimise disruption.</i>	
1.015	<p>However it is clear that the people who actually live here were not consulted and are not prepared to put up with stress and uncertainty followed by a minimum of two years disruption, heavy vehicles, noise, dust and lack of amenity. Indeed why should they when the project benefits no-one</p> <p><i>We've been listening to the views of local people since the project was first announced, including through public events in 2015, 2016, and most recently this summer.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our planning application, we will demonstrate how we will manage issues such as noise, dust and vibration. We are fully signed up to industry best practice and our main contractor will also be part of the Considerate Constructor Scheme.</i></p> <p><i>We remain confident that the VIP project will significantly enhance the Hale Purlieu landscape, benefitting the local community and many visitors who enjoy its special qualities.</i></p>	
1.013	<p>I live on Forest Road and am told that outside my back gate, where I walk every day, I shall face a few yards?? Away a 8 foot high deer fence behind which there will be diggers and concrete lorries, 50 a day, I have been told. - working for at least 2 years. How noisy will this be? It is nice to be told there will be crossing points where lines men will hold up the traffic for us to cross but that is not what you want outside your gate. The noise and dust will be very disturbing.</p> <p>Thirdly, traffic. How will these diggers, cable layers, and 50-a-day concrete lorries reach the site? Someone said it was planned to close Forest Road altogether at times !! The noise and congestion caused by all the vehicles will be horrendous. How will they get up to Ladies Mile? Will they go along Hale Road ?</p> <p><i>Following discussions with the Verderers, Agisters and Commoners Defence Association, we do not propose to use deer fencing.</i></p> <p><i>We estimate that there will be an average total of 75 vehicle movements per day - up to 50 of these could be HGVs. We will have more information on traffic management within the site and on local roads at our public consultation events early next year.</i></p> <p><i>The majority of our vehicles will access the site from the B3080 Forest Road and will then operate on the haul road within the site. There will be no HGV movements along Lady's Mile, Hale Lane or Hale Road.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our planning application, we will demonstrate how we will manage issues such as noise, dust and vibration. We are fully signed up to industry best practice and our main contractor will also be part of the Considerate Constructor Scheme.</i></p>	
1.012	<p>There will be huge disruption to the lives of over sixty residents of Forest Road – disruption that will last for the duration of the work, likely to be more than the two years indicated by National Grid.</p>	

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	<i>We are confident from our experience of similar projects in sensitive environments that the work will take two years and we will work with our main contractor to minimise timescales and disruption wherever possible.</i>	
1.008	<p>the latest proposal following the low voltage line, which supplies properties along Forest Road and Mays Firs, shall have short and long-term implications for local property owners.</p> <p><i>We are confident from our experience of similar projects in sensitive environments that the work will take two years and we will work with our main contractor to minimise timescales and disruption wherever possible.</i></p> <p><i>Any implications for local people after construction is complete will be minimal.</i></p>	
1.005	<p>Clearly, for those who live near the newly proposed route there will be a high cost in terms of quality of life with the traffic, noise etc</p> <p><i>We have contacted residents with properties neighbouring Hale Purlieu to discuss with them directly the likely impact on their homes during construction.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our planning application, we will demonstrate how we will manage issues such as noise and traffic. We are fully signed up to industry best practice and our main contractor will also be part of the Considerate Constructor Scheme.</i></p>	
1.002	<p>They may have considered all the local upset over the animals and wet heathland etc, which I completely support, but they have totally disregarded the concerns of the local people, who you represent, and have brought the large disruptive area so much closer to the inhabited area in Hale Parish, as to cause maximum disruption and noise to the many elderly people who live there for at least 2 years, with never any ability for them to use the Hale Purlieu for exercise or dog walking and recreation.</p> <p><i>We have contacted residents with properties neighbouring Hale Purlieu to discuss with them directly the likely impact on their homes during construction.</i></p> <p><i>We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, the National Trust and others to ensure safe access to the Purlieu for local people throughout our works.</i></p>	

**R2: Resident: Property structural damage**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.003	I have major concerns for my own property and other neighbouring properties as to the severe detrimental structural damage that will be caused by the heavy machinery particularly compaction machinery by vibration causing cracks and structural damage as it is so close to our properties and in my	

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	<p>case only 60metres from our boundary. This is a serious concern and if it goes ahead a full structural survey will need to be carried out on all our affected properties prior to commencing work.</p> <p><i>We will be carrying out a number of ground investigation surveys during the autumn. Once the results of these are known, we will be in a position to decide whether any properties require structural surveys.</i></p>	
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**R3: Resident: Ability to sell property**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.008	<p>the latest proposal following the low voltage line, which supplies properties along Forest Road and Mays Firs, shall have short and long-term implications for local property owners.</p> <p><i>We are confident from our experience of similar projects in sensitive environments that the work will take two years and we will work with our main contractor to minimise timescales and disruption wherever possible.</i></p> <p><i>Any implications for local people after construction is complete will be minimal.</i></p>	
1.005	<p>certainly it would be difficult to sell any property so affected for the duration of the project (another unknown).</p> <p><i>We are confident that the project will take up to two years to complete.</i></p> <p><i>We have contacted residents with properties neighbouring Hale Purlieu to discuss with them directly the likely impact on their homes during construction.</i></p>	
1.003	<p>with this project going ahead it is clear that selling our property at this juncture it is not an option and it is obvious any new prospective buyer for our property would have to be informed that just outside our back gate onto the forest there are cables with thousands of volts underneath which at some point in the next 50 years will have to be dug up to be renewed.</p> <p><i>We have contacted residents with properties neighbouring Hale Purlieu to discuss with them directly the likely impact on their homes during construction.</i></p> <p><i>High voltage underground electricity cables are used extensively around the UK.</i></p> <p><i>The advanced cable technology we are proposing to use will last 40 to 60 years according to the manufacturers' warranty, although in reality this could be longer. If they did need to be replaced after this time, it is not possible today to state how this would be done as technology will almost certainly advance in the intervening period.</i></p>	

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**A1: Animal Movements: Crossing points**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.027	<p>the history and culture of the New Forest, both on an environmental level and a practical Commoning issue, is in danger of being eroded by the National Grid plans.</p> <p>The NFNPA describe the pasturing Commoners ponies, cows and donkeys as the "lawn mowers of the forest" (which they do in much of their tourist branding of the forest), what will happen to Hatchet Green and the surrounding areas, for example, if no animals are able to access the area and graze due to the haul road, gates and 75-90 vehicles a day blocking off the free flow of the animals to the green?</p> <p><i>Maintaining and, where possible, enhancing the cultural heritage of a landscape is one of the core principles of the National Grid VIP project.</i></p> <p><i>We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, Commoners Defence Association, the landowners and local commoners to address their concerns over access, grazing and safety. Their advice is helping us to develop a solution to allow sufficient access and grazing on the Purlieu.</i></p>	
1.026	<p>On the new route it appears that the fenced haul road will provide a barrier for the duration of the works for all animals, severely restricting Commoners' animals and their movement around the Purlieu and also their access to Hatchet Green. The deer herd will also be affected. The proposed manned gates are most unlikely to provide a reasonable solution.</p> <p><i>We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, Commoners Defence Association, the landowners and local commoners to address their concerns over access, grazing and safety. Their advice is helping us to develop a solution to allow sufficient access and grazing on the Purlieu.</i></p> <p><i>We have shared our thoughts on crossing points with these groups and are currently incorporating their feedback into our plans.</i></p>	
1.010	<p>Livestock do not know how to use 'designated crossing points'  I have huge concern for the livestock and commoners access to livestock</p> <p><i>We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, Commoners Defence Association, the landowners and local commoners to address their concerns over access, grazing and safety. Their advice is helping us to develop a solution to allow sufficient access and grazing on the Purlieu.</i></p> <p><i>We have shared our thoughts on crossing points with these groups and are currently incorporating their feedback into our plans.</i></p>	

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1.005	<p>The whole site is fenced both sides. The haul road has to be so under h and s regs as I understand it. When asked about movements of animals to and from the green and the open Forest we were told that there would be 'crossing points' where animals and people could go across - across 140m? So there are going to be fenced 'tunnels' through which we and animals can pass. How many no-one really knows apparently. They haven't worked that out yet. The animals and people will be barred of course from the whole area not just the haul road. At night the 'crossings' will all be left open. When work is going on with an average of 75 lorries per day each vehicle driver will need to open the 'gated' area on the haul road both sides of the crossing point and then ensure they are closed after going through.</p> <p>Meanwhile the animals will be standing waiting for the green light (I jest) to show them it is safe to walk through. the ponies will realise that this is not a 'drift' and all animals will of course recognise that it will be quite safe to enter a 140m tunnel and not be put off by huge lorries either side.. I jest again.</p> <p><i>Animals and people will be able to access the Purlieu through carefully managed crossing points, which will be open to them and closed to construction traffic both day and night.</i></p> <p><i>We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, Commoners Defence Association, the landowners and local commoners to address their concerns over access, grazing and safety. Their advice is helping us to develop a solution to allow sufficient access and grazing on the Purlieu.</i></p> <p><i>We have shared our thoughts on crossing points with these groups and are currently incorporating their feedback into our plans.</i></p>	
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**A2: Animal Movements: Access to water on mire**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.010	<p>The mire is the main water source from the Hale end of the forest. Work near here will deter animals to come into our end of the forest.</p> <p><i>National Grid is aware of the importance of the mire system both ecologically and as a water source for grazing animals.</i></p> <p><i>We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, Commoners Defence Association, the landowners and local commoners to address their concerns over access, grazing and safety. Their advice is helping us to develop a solution to allow sufficient access and grazing on the Purlieu.</i></p>	

**A3: Accidents to stock**

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HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.027	<p>Some Commoners said they would remove their animals if this scheme were to go ahead. The feeling was that the animals could easily be pushed towards the Roger Penny Way road which has a very bad history of animal accidents and road deaths. As Commoners we spend much of our time keeping our animals away from this road. the history and culture of the New Forest, both on an environmental level and a practical Commoning issue, is in danger of being eroded by the National Grid plans.</p> <p><i>We are aware of the important role that commoning plays in shaping the landscape and overall fabric of the New Forest.</i></p> <p><i>We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, Commoners Defence Association, the landowners and local commoners to address their concerns over access, grazing and safety. Their advice is helping us to develop a solution to allow sufficient access and grazing.</i></p>	
1.025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the danger to animals during the period of the workings</li> <li>• the loss of grazing for commoners' ponies and cattle</li> </ul> <p><i>The safety of both people and animals is paramount in everything National Grid does. We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, Commoners Defence Association, the landowners and local commoners to address their concerns over access, grazing and safety. Their advice is helping us to develop a solution to allow sufficient access and grazing.</i></p>	
1.010	<p>Impact on livestock being closer to vehicles and becoming less scared of cars etc; long term impact on animal behaviour</p> <p><i>We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, Commoners Defence Association, the landowners and local commoners to address their concerns over safety for livestock. Their expert advice is helping us to shape our detailed plans.</i></p>	
1.006	<p>In my opinion Forest stock would be at risk through accidents etc. particularly the Forest ponies as they appear to wish to stay in the same area almost regardless as to what is happening. Obviously, there would also be a huge loss of grazing for the animals.</p> <p><i>The safety of both people and animals is paramount in everything National Grid does. We are working closely with the New Forest National Park Authority, Verderers of the New Forest, Commoners Defence Association, the landowners and local commoners to address their concerns over access, grazing and safety. Their advice is helping us to develop a solution to allow sufficient access and grazing.</i></p>	

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**A4: General concerns about restoration: wildlife**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.023	<p>On the route are protected bird species and the proposals will require the removal of the trees they use for roosting and the vegetation they use for ground nesting, so removing those protected birds from the area.</p> <p><i>We'll confirm the trees that would need to be removed as we develop detailed plans. We will be guided by the National Trust on restoration, including any tree planting.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our planning application, we will need to reassure organisations such as Natural England and the National Park Authority that the restoration work we will undertake will allow the populations of protected birds to re-establish themselves in an acceptable timeframe.</i></p>	
1.015	<p>As a keen nature lover and bird watcher I was also appalled at the lack of compassion for the heavily protected area you propose to desecrate, putely in the name of "Visual Impact". The work is also at total odds with the nearby Franchise Lodge RSPB reserve recently announced.</p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our planning application, we will need to reassure organisations such as Natural England and the National Park authority that the restoration work we will undertake will allow the populations of protected birds to re-establish themselves in an acceptable timeframe.</i></p>	
1.010	<p>I appreciate the ground will recover after time but fear once the wildlife is disturbed and fearful it will not fully ever return.</p> <p><i>We are confident that any disturbed wildlife will return once the Purlieu has been restored, as it has done previously.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our planning application, we will need to reassure organisations such as Natural England and the National Park Authority that the restoration work we will undertake will allow the populations of protected birds and other wildlife to re-establish themselves in an acceptable timeframe.</i></p>	

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**B1: Benefit concern: Short life of cable**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.023	<p>You are also unable to give a definite life of these cables, so you will be repeating the process again in the future.</p> <p><i>The cables will last 40 to 60 years according to the manufacturer's warranty, although in reality this could be longer. We cannot state how they would be replaced as the technology will almost certainly advance in the intervening period.</i></p>	
1.013	<p>I am told the buried cables are only guaranteed for up to 40 years when the whole thing will start again.</p> <p><i>The cables will last 40 to 60 years according to the manufacturer's warranty, although in reality this could be longer. We cannot state how they would be replaced as the technology will almost certainly advance in the intervening period.</i></p>	
1.007	<p>How can they subscribe to such wonton destruction without knowing how long the cables will last and possibility of having to repeat it all again.</p> <p><i>The cables will last 40 to 60 years according to the manufacturer's warranty, although in reality this could be longer. We cannot state how they would be replaced as the technology will almost certainly advance in the intervening period.</i></p>	
1.003	<p>any new prospective buyer for our property would have to be informed that just outside our back gate onto the forest there are cables with thousands of volts underneath which at some point in the next 50 years will have to be dug up to be renewed.</p> <p><i>The cables will last 40 to 60 years according to the manufacturer's warranty, although in reality this could be longer. We cannot state how they would be replaced as the technology will almost certainly advance in the intervening period.</i></p>	
1.001	<p>The action of burying the pylon wires will leave a massive scar forever. Then just before forever comes around, it will be dug up in about fifty years to replace the wiring which will be then have become 'end-of-life'.</p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p> <p><i>The cables will last 40 to 60 years according to the manufacturer's warranty, although in reality this could be longer. We cannot state how they would be replaced as the technology will almost certainly advance in the intervening period.</i></p>	

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**B2: Benefit concern: Not a visual blight**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.019	<p>I have never considered the pylons to be a problem aesthetically, in fact they are a useful land mark.</p> <p><i>The pylons have been independently identified as having a major negative impact on a nationally important landscape.</i></p>	
1.013	<p>Firstly many people who live on Hale and walk ,ride and run here regularly have no objection to the pylons and many use them to find their way.</p> <p><i>The pylons have been independently identified as having a major negative impact on a nationally important landscape.</i></p>	
1.010	<p>If you look up you will see the other pylons either side of the forest so again doesn't get rid of the whole impact.            Concern over 'blots' on the view if pylons are replaced by junction boxes; therefore only reduced impact.            I feel it to be a selfish act. We initially placed them into the forest at expense and disruption to the wildlife and land and to replace/ change something that is not causing negative impact other than visually would again be a further act of selfishness.            The pylons have saved people from becoming lost in an area tourists visit which has no phone signal or GPS etc</p> <p><i>The section of overhead line has been independently identified as having a major negative impact on a nationally important landscape.</i></p> <p><i>The link pillar boxes that would be required are 1.5m in height and would be screened, resulting in a negligible impact compared with that of the pylons.</i></p>	

**B3: Benefit concern: General 'cost' too high**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.028	<p>To remove eight pylons may be worthy but to do it by causing irreparable and long lasting damage to this protected land and habitat is a disgrace and it should be opposed by anyone with the interests of the New Forest at heart.</p> <p><i>VIP is a project for the long-term enhancement of the landscape.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.024	<p>We love Hale Purlieu just as it is and we don't want to lose our tree lined road and have years of disruption just to lose site of 8 pylons - we'll still have them</p>	

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	<p>striding down to Woodgreen and through Breamore anyway - which could in fact be seen as more of a 'blight' on the landscape.</p> <p><i>The section of overhead line has been independently identified as having a major negative impact on a nationally important landscape.</i></p>	
1.022	<p>Not because I do not think that the Purlieu would benefit from the removal of the pylons but, because National Grid cannot propose a project which does not offer more benefit than the destruction of our local habitat.</p> <p><i>VIP is a project for the long-term enhancement of the landscape.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.019	<p>whilst 'hiding' all the amenities underground sounds good in an ideal world, I don't believe the minimal benefits are worth the detrimental impact on the local area: whether it be the flora; fauna; wildlife; or people's properties. It will take many years, if ever, for the damage caused by the project to recover.</p> <p><i>The work we propose will result in major enhancement of the landscape in this part of the National Park.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.017	<p>... the pylons across Hale Purlieu are part of the landscape and although it would obviously be prettier without them we consider the disruption and damage caused by burying the cables is too high to warrant removing the pylons regardless of the expense.</p> <p><i>VIP is a project for the long-term enhancement of the landscape.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.014	<p>as I believe the damage and destruction it will cause far outweighs any visual benefit and that they should fight harder to get more leeway on what they do with the funds.</p> <p><i>The work we propose will result in major enhancement of the landscape in this part of the National Park.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	

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	<p><i>The provision made available by Ofgem cannot be spent on anything other than mitigating the visual impact of electricity transmission infrastructure.</i></p>	
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**E1: Heat from cables below surface**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.026	<p>- National Grid are also unable to answer questions about the soil temperature up to eighteen inches below the surface. They accept that there is a marginal increase at surface level and claim this is not material. This is not convincing without support documentation which includes details of the temperature below the surface.</p> <p><i>Computer simulations show that under normal operation the temperature of the soil at root depth (0.05m) could be up to 0.5 degree higher than that seen at the surface (based on an initial ground temperature of 15 degrees in summer). At maximum (emergency) rating (for a 24hr period) the temperature could increase by up to 3 degrees at root depth from that at the surface; the ground in such situations takes about 40hrs to then fall back to the original temperatures (whilst at normal operation).</i></p>	
1.025	<p>- the unknown impact of heat from cables beneath the heathland</p> <p><i>Computer simulations show that under normal operation the temperature of the soil at root depth (0.05m) could be up to 0.5 degree higher than that seen at the surface (based on an initial ground temperature of 15 degrees in summer). At maximum (emergency) rating (for a 24hr period) the temperature could increase by up to 3 degrees at root depth from that at the surface; the ground in such situations takes about 40hrs to then fall back to the original temperatures (whilst at normal operation).</i></p>	
1.012	<p>The risk to vegetation is not the temperature at the surface of the soil. The fundamental point is that the heat generated by the cables must be dissipated to ensure the cable temperature does not rise and result in failure; and the only place it has to go is into the soil. It is the soil temperature at 10cm to 20cm below the surface that matters for vegetation. The laws of physics mean that there will be a temperature rise at that depth.</p> <p>The National Grid Report on undergrounding states:          "When designing a cable system there are a number of factors to consider ---. These include ensuring: - Adequate heat dissipation to prevent overheating and subsequent reduction in its capacity for current carrying."          "For direct buried cables each cable needs to be well-spaced from others for good heat dissipation. To match overhead line thermal performance for a 400KV double circuit, as many as 12 separate cables in four separate trenches may be needed,"</p> <p>An exhaustive report on undergrounding was compiled in 2007 by a consulting company PB Power for Scottish Hydro Electric. Some key comments:          'The operation of the cables will result in the dissipation of heat into the surrounding soil. At high loads this will cause movement of moisture within the soil and an increase in soil temperature above ambient.'          'The alteration to drainage, soil moisture and temperature has the potential to affect, over time, the species composition of the reinstated ground cover. This may result in the reinstated ground cover being ecologically and visually different from the surrounding undisturbed ground cover.'</p> <p><i>Response in development by National Grid</i></p>	

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**E2: General concerns about ability to restore 'environment'**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.028	<p>I am very clear that the changes in the Purlieu will be adverse and damaging and they will be permanent so devastating this part of the New Forest for ever.</p> <p><i>VIP is a project for the long-term enhancement of the landscape.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.026	<p>The proposed route involves the permanent destruction of all trees and vegetation across a 40 metre swathe of protected land for a distance of over 3 kilometres.</p> <p><i>There will be no permanent destruction resulting from the project. We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the inevitable destruction of 60 acres of the Purlieu potentially for decades</li> <li>• the fact that the company involved in restoration has by its own admission no experience of such an environment</li> <li>• the fact that no trees can be replanted due to potential interference with cables</li> </ul> <p><i>There will be no permanent destruction resulting from the project. We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p> <p><i>Our preferred specialist restoration contractor, Alaska, has successfully restored similar heathland in the New Forest and Dorset. We do not believe that the restoration process will take decades.</i></p> <p><i>There are restrictions on the types of vegetation that can be planted close to underground cables. However, we believe that it will be possible to plant typical heathland vegetation across the restored site.</i></p>	
1.023	<p>By burying the cables you will devastate our tranquil and much loved Purlieu, not just for a couple of years but for ever as you will require access (a track) to your various boxes to check the cables from time to time.</p> <p><i>Underground cables are very reliable and it is highly unlikely that we will need to dig up even a small part of the Purlieu on a regular basis. Cables of a similar, though less advanced type, installed 25 years ago have required little or no intrusive maintenance.</i></p>	

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	<p><i>Monitoring the cables would not require the creation of a specific access route – link pillar boxes can be sited to allow access from existing tracks on the Purlieu. Our engineers could use 4x4 vehicles to access the boxes, as the New Forest National Park Authority’s staff and others do when carrying out work on the Purlieu.</i></p>	
1.016	<p>The environmental impact will be appalling</p> <p><i>One of the VIP project’s guiding principles is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and environmental heritage within our most protected landscapes while avoiding unacceptable impacts on the natural and historic environment.</i></p> <p><i>We’ll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.013	<p>The alternative we are being offered is a 150 foot wide swath cut through the northern sector of our forest. In ten? years’ time we shall be left with a concrete road with heather and grass growing. A gorse field locally was burnt off 19 years ago and is only now beginning to regenerate. No trees will be left or permitted to grow. At present this area is a pleasant patch work of lawns, heather ,gorse and groups of trees. .... In addition, although the pylons will be cut down I have not heard that they will remove the concrete .There will still be a scar across the land where they were. Do we want two scars across the Purlieu?</p> <p><i>The working width would vary between 60m-140m with wider parts used for storage of heathland. There will not be a concrete road. We’d use a temporary road that will be removed at completion of the project. We would remove the concrete pylon foundations. We’ll confirm the trees that would need to be removed as we develop detailed plans.</i></p> <p><i>We’ll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A water pipe was put across Hale Purlieu about 35 years ago and in many parts the land has still not recovered. The Purlieu does not have topsoil with grass on it that can be removed, stored and then put back.</li> </ul> <p><i>The water pipe was installed before the New Forest became a National Park and so the plans were not scrutinised in the same way as our proposals will be.</i></p> <p><i>We’ll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.001	<p>The pipeline was put in in (I think) around 1960 and the scar (albeit on 10m wide) is very evident today and there is absolutely no hope of it ever recovering.</p>	

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	<p>Hale Purlieu has nary an inch of top-soil so cannot be scraped off and replaced at a later date. The action of burying the pylon wires will leave a massive scar forever.</p> <p><i>The water pipe was installed before the New Forest became a National Park and so the plans were not scrutinised in the same way as our proposals will be.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
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**E3: Soil pH balance**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.026	<p>The soil is acidic and National Grid proposes to use alkaline materials to encase the cables. They make assurances about the security of this technology but it cannot be guaranteed and if there was to be any leakage the flora and fauna over a huge area of the Purlieu would be permanently damaged as the water flows from the undergrounding route into the mire.</p> <p><i>National Grid will ensure that all materials used around the cables are lined with an impermeable membrane. We will also monitor the situation throughout to ensure that the acidic nature of the soil in Hale Purlieu is not adversely affected.</i></p>	
1.006	<p>One can only assume with concrete etc. being put in the ground that at some point this will alter the pH of the soil. This would then alter the type of flora and fauna that would flourish.</p> <p><i>National Grid will ensure that all materials used around the cables are lined with an impermeable membrane. We will also monitor the situation throughout to ensure that the acidic nature of the soil in Hale Purlieu is not adversely affected.</i></p>	

**E4: Disruption to protected species habitat**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.026	<p>On the route are protected bird species and the proposals will require the removal of the trees they use for roosting and the vegetation they use for ground nesting, so removing those protected birds from the area.</p> <p><i>National Grid is fully aware of the sensitive nature of Hale Purlieu and the protected bird species present in this habitat.</i></p>	

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	<p><i>We are receiving expert advice from Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers, the New Forest National Park Authority and others dedicated to protecting Hale Purlieu and its wildlife. We are confident that any disturbed wildlife will return once the Purlieu has been restored, as it has done previously following work on the Purlieu.</i></p>	
1.025	<p>the loss of ground-nesting habitats in an area where rare species are found</p> <p><i>National Grid is fully aware of the sensitive nature of Hale Purlieu and the protected bird species present in this habitat.</i></p> <p><i>We are receiving expert advice from Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers, the New Forest National Park Authority and others dedicated to protecting Hale Purlieu and its wildlife. We are confident that any disturbed wildlife will return once the Purlieu has been restored, as it has done previously following work on the Purlieu.</i></p>	
1.012	<p>Regarding the new route adopted on 19 July 2018; it does reduce, but does not eliminate, the impact on the wetlands and mire, but exacerbates the damage to the habitat of the protected birds, in particular the nightjars. There are large areas of wetland which will be nigh impossible to restore.</p> <p><i>The route announced in July was developed following feedback from local technical stakeholders dedicated to preserving the Purlieu and its wildlife, including Natural England and the New Forest National Park Authority</i></p> <p><i>We are working with a specialist restoration contractor, Alaska, which has successfully restored similar heathland in the New Forest and Dorset.</i></p>	
1.009	<p>We strongly feel that the extensive work involved would be far too damaging to the forest and we are extremely concerned about the devastating impact that this will have on the environment, nature and our community, an annihilation that it may never fully recover from. Several species of flora, fauna, coleoptera and other insect life, some of which are very rare, are living and surviving in the Forest, as are the New Forest ponies who have made it their home for centuries.</p> <p><i>We fully appreciate the sensitive nature of Hale Purlieu, its ecology and its heritage.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
1.006	<p>The bird life has changed considerably since I first came to Hale, but special species like the dartford warbler and nightjars still remain. This year we have seen lapwing and curlew looking for possible nesting sites. With all the work</p>	

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	<p>envisaged with this proposal, destroying ground cover and cutting down trees, will have a detrimental effect on the bird population, snakes, lizards and the amazing variety of beetles you see about.</p> <p><i>We fully appreciate the sensitive nature of Hale Purlieu, its ecology and its heritage.</i></p> <p><i>We'll take great care restoring the area ensuring no permanent damage, with expert guidance from organisations dedicated to protecting it: Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the local Wildlife Trust, the Verderers and the New Forest National Park Authority.</i></p>	
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**E5: Disruption to waterflow onto mire**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
0108JL	<p>The area that NG propose route E to pass over is the catchment area for the headwater of the mire. During the construction a dam will effectively be created restricting the amount of water feeding the mire for the duration of the works. In the winter this is a particularly wet area and the water to the North of the works will be dammed and not be able to run off to the Mire. Where will it go? In periods of heavy rain the junction between Tethering Drove and Lady's mile is effectively turned into a small river. Will this be exacerbated?</p> <p><i>Our preferred route minimises disturbance to Hale Purlieu's wetland system. We're conducting ground investigation studies to determine the project's potential effect on waterflow and we will introduce measures to allow for the flow of water across the mire.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our planning application, we will need to reassure organisations such as Natural England and the National Park Authority that our temporary construction work will allow the mire system to function effectively in relation to the flow of water.</i></p>	
1.006	<p>New springs are still appearing, so from a lay person's perspective one must assume that a huge amount of digging, making trenches, the compacting of the ground by large vehicles is going to have an effect on the movement of water underground. This water is what makes the mire that is considered so special.</p> <p><i>We're conducting ground investigation studies to determine the project's potential effect on waterflow and we will introduce measures to allow for the flow of water across the mire.</i></p> <p><i>As part of our planning application, we will need to reassure organisations such as Natural England and the National Park Authority that our temporary construction work will allow the mire system to function effectively in relation to the flow of water.</i></p>	

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**NG1: National Grid: Poor communication**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.028	<p>I attended the Drop In meeting at the end of July and found that National Grid could tell me very little and answer very few questions. They seem sure that the work will only last two years but I find this hard to believe as they had no details or plans to back this up.</p> <p><i>We held the sessions in July to share our plans with local people at an early stage of their development. While we're still working on details, it's important to us to receive local feedback to help refine our proposals.</i></p> <p><i>We are confident from our experience of similar work in challenging environments that the work will take two years.</i></p>	
1.026	<p>- At the Drop In meeting last month I asked if a Tree Survey had been completed at least on the part of the route that had been proposed a year ago. I was told there was no Tree Survey. I asked if a Hydrology Report had been received. I was told there was no Hydrology Report. After two years since National Grid commenced this project I find it appalling that so soon before they want to submit their Planning Application they seem to have so little essential information. I would expect an individual Parishioner to have done more to advance any personal Planning Application than this large multinational company has managed to achieve in over a year.</p> <p><i>Over the last three years we have completed a significant number of technical surveys, but it would not have been efficient to undertake detailed work in specific locations prior to the confirmation of a route alignment.</i></p> <p><i>Now that we have agreed a route, we will undertake the necessary surveys required for our planning application. We have waited for the end of the breeding bird season so as not to disturb wildlife.</i></p>	
1.012	<p>At a meeting of stakeholders on 19th July 2018, National Grid presented yet another route. They must have been working on this at the time of the 19th June 2018 stakeholders meeting which was attended by Parish Councillors and Josh Lavis from PHPM; and certainly at the Community Liaison meeting on 9th July 2018. No mention of another route was made at either of these meetings. It is insulting that these meetings were simply a charade – an absurd pretence; a farce.</p> <p><i>The route presented on 19 June was our preferred route at that time. When alternatives were suggested to us by stakeholders, we investigated them thoroughly, testing to see if they were feasible in engineering terms before sharing them with the wider stakeholder group.</i></p> <p><i>Our meetings have a much broader remit than discussing the route alone. They are invaluable in allowing us to share progress with stakeholders and receive detailed feedback on our developing plans.</i></p>	

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**NG2: National Grid: National Grid deceit.**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.026	<p>- Apart from the very early days in the summer of 2016 the communications and consultation on this project by National Grid has been a disgrace. Even the latest move to abandon Route C and launch Route E was a shambles with public meetings held as if Route C was continuing when it was not. The Verderers' minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> June make it clear that before this date Route C was in doubt. As a result of their behaviour over the last two years I have lost all trust and confidence in the integrity of National Grid and other Stakeholders to consult openly on this project.</p> <p><i>National Grid has worked closely with stakeholders and the local community to develop its plans from the outset. The route presented on 19 June was our preferred route at that time.</i></p> <p><i>We have continually sought feedback from stakeholders while undertaking technical studies to establish the feasibility of our developing proposals in engineering terms.</i></p> <p><i>We believe that this approach represents best practice in that we are seeking to establish stakeholder preferences and remove any concerns well in advance of the submission of a planning application.</i></p>	
1.012	<p>Let me come to some other matters. These as such may be of a minor nature but suggest that National Grid is still not being accurate in their information – I will leave you and them and the stakeholders to decide whether it is deceit or incompetence.</p> <p>At the stakeholder meeting on 19th June 2018 they stated that the £500 million allocated by Ofgem “equates to around 30p per year added to electricity bills”. The fact is that at that rate it would take more than fifty years to collect £500million. (There are about 30 million bill-payers i.e. £16.67 each, which at £0.30 per year takes 55 years). At the Hale village drop-in on 27th July 2018, I asked the National Grid project manager, Ben Smith, for how many years the 30p would need to be collected. He, without any sign of embarrassment, stated 'Forty years'. I believe my estimate to be the more accurate but that is irrelevant to the fundamental point that the 30p figure was a fabrication without any rational basis, a gross deceit – not in this case incompetence.</p> <p>At the stakeholder meeting on 19th July 2018 they stated that the new route was 10% longer than route C. The facts – assuming the maps we have been given are the facts – are that measuring road to road (i.e. not measuring into the sealing ends) route C is 2.65km and the new route is 3.2km, a 20% increase.</p> <p><i>Response in development by National Grid</i></p>	
1.012	<p>The National Grid Meeting note of the stakeholder meeting on 19th June 2018 states: 'The potential heat rise of the soil around the cables would be less than half a degree.' The notes from Hale Parish Council state: 'The heat loss from the</p>	

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	<p>cables reaching the surface will be less than half a degree and will not be measurable. It will therefore be insignificant.’</p> <p>I didn’t know whether these two statements were intended to mean the same thing, and they seem designed to confuse, working on the basis that people will not want to question these points for fear of showing their ignorance.</p> <p>To clarify the situation I asked Ben Smith what the statement in the National Grid meeting note meant. He enthusiastically took me to some charts which showed various temperatures depending on conditions. I pointed out that the charts were showing surface temperature, and I was well aware that the effect of convection of the air is to keep surface temperature close to ambient. (The same reason that overhead lines do not overheat). The meeting note says ‘around the cables’, I said. Ben then stated that the meeting note was wrong – it wasn’t written by an engineer. Why did it take me to point it out? I then asked what the temperature was 10cm to 20cm below the surface. The reply was ‘I don’t know’.</p> <p>The Hale meeting note is therefore accurate – but the information is irrelevant to the issue of the effect on vegetation of the heat generated by the cables.</p> <p>The repeated reference by National Grid to surface temperature seems to me to be deliberate obfuscation.</p> <p><i>Computer simulations show that under normal operation the temperature of the soil at root depth (0.05m) could be up to 0.5 degree higher than that seen at the surface (based on an initial ground temperature of 15 degrees in summer). At maximum (emergency) rating (for a 24hr period) the temperature could increase by up to 3 degrees at root depth from that at the surface; the ground in such situations takes about 40hrs to then fall back to the original temperatures (whilst at normal operation).</i></p>	
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**COST: Cost**

HPC Ref	Comment	Response Ref
1.024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the state we currently find our country we cannot understand why it is thought beneficial to ask the public to raise such a vast amount of money to improve the view - when we have a health service creeping at the seams - just one of the areas we are unable to fund adequately.</li> </ul> <p><i>Ofgem’s provision for mitigating the visual impact of electricity transmission infrastructure on protected landscapes was introduced following extensive consumer willingness to pay research. The money is not available for any other purpose.</i></p> <p><i>Further research commissioned by National Grid and undertaken by Accent in 2018 revealed that 69 per cent of surveyed participants across the country found the New Forest VIP project an acceptable use of funds. 13 per cent of respondents found it unacceptable, while 14 per cent found it neither acceptable nor unacceptable and 4 per cent did not know.</i></p>	
1.020	<p>To me this is very expensive niff naff and trivia and the points under discussion will be rendered obsolete by real environmental problems. These urgently require addressing and that will require real money. One had only to look at the ripe blackberries in july to see the local manifestations of this!</p>	

**Hale Parish Council**  
**VIP Feedback received from Parishioners to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018**  
**Updated for National Grid comments received 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

	<p><i>Ofgem's provision for mitigating the visual impact of electricity transmission infrastructure on protected landscapes was introduced following extensive consumer willingness to pay research. The money is not available for any other purpose.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed expenditure will ultimately be scrutinised by Ofgem, the energy regulator, to ensure that National Grid's proposed scheme is an efficient use of consumer money.</i></p>	
1.016	<p>What is more, the £125m cost of the scheme could be far better spent in other areas of protecting and indeed enhancing the New Forest.</p> <p><i>The final cost of the scheme has not yet been determined as the tender process remains ongoing. The figure of £125m is not one that National Grid has quoted, and the likely cost will be significantly lower than this.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed expenditure will ultimately be scrutinised by Ofgem, the energy regulator, to ensure that National Grid's proposed scheme is an efficient use of consumer money.</i></p>	
1.015	<p>The proposed cost of £125m, to be paid by electricity consumers, appears crass in these times of funding crises and household bill increases.</p> <p><i>The final cost of the scheme has not yet been determined as the tender process remains ongoing. The figure of £125m is not one that National Grid has quoted, and the likely cost will be significantly lower than this.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed expenditure will ultimately be scrutinised by Ofgem, the energy regulator, to ensure that National Grid's proposed scheme is an efficient use of consumer money.</i></p>	
1.011	<p>Who Pays??? Who is going to pay for this Project? is it correct that we shall all contribute when we pay our electricity bills?  I am told that the project does not provide extra safety or efficiency but is merely a cosmetic exercise. In this age of austerity what justification is there for asking the purchasers, a number of whom find paying for the lighting and heating difficult, to fund a such project when they have no choice?</p> <p><i>It is correct that the cost of the project will ultimately be borne by electricity bill payers. Ofgem's provision for mitigating the visual impact of electricity transmission infrastructure on designated landscapes was introduced following extensive consumer willingness to pay research. The money is not available for any other purpose.</i></p> <p><i>Further research commissioned by National Grid and undertaken by Accent in 2018 revealed that 69 per cent of surveyed participants across the country found the New Forest VIP project an acceptable use of funds. 13 per cent of respondents found it unacceptable, while 14 per cent found it neither acceptable nor unacceptable and 4 per cent did not know.</i></p>	
1.009	<p>The huge sum of money therefore, would be much better being directed – or could it be called "donated" – to far more worthwhile causes, and that this whole project is completely abandoned.</p>	

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	<p><i>Ofgem's provision for mitigating the visual impact of electricity transmission infrastructure on designated landscapes was introduced following extensive consumer willingness to pay research. The money is not available for any other purpose.</i></p> <p><i>Further research commissioned by National Grid and undertaken by Accent in 2018 revealed that 69 per cent of surveyed participants across the country found the New Forest VIP project an acceptable use of funds. 13 per cent of respondents found it unacceptable, while 14 per cent found it neither acceptable nor unacceptable and 4 per cent did not know.</i></p>	
1.006	<p>The amount of money involved in this project is obscene.</p> <p><i>The final cost of the scheme has not yet been determined as the tender process remains ongoing. The proposed expenditure will ultimately be scrutinised by Ofgem, the energy regulator, to ensure that National Grid's proposed scheme is an efficient use of consumer money.</i></p>	