

About National Grid

National Grid owns and manages the electricity transmission network in England and Wales to which different energy sources are connected. We link people to the energy they use.

You can find out more at www.nationalgrid.com

VIP project explained

National Grid's Visual Impact Provision project makes use of an allowance of £500m by Ofgem across Great Britain to carry out work which will help to reduce the impact of existing electricity transmission lines in English and Welsh AONBs and National Parks.

For more details about the project please visit www.nationalgrid.com/vip

Stakeholder Advisory Group

The Stakeholder Advisory Group is an independent group of stakeholder organisations, chaired by environmentalist Chris Baines and comprising senior representatives from 15 English and Welsh stakeholder bodies namely: Cadw, Campaign for National Parks, CPRE, CPRW, Historic England, Landscape Institute, National Association for AONBs, National Parks England, National Parks Wales, National Trust, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, The Ramblers, Visit England and Visit Wales.

The most important task for us is to use this allowance to achieve the maximum enhancement to the landscape in England and Wales, whilst avoiding unacceptable environmental impacts. To ensure that we get this right and bring the most benefit from the Visual Impact Provision project, National Grid is working closely and collaboratively with stakeholders.

A group, known as the Stakeholder Advisory Group, has been set up by National Grid. It comprises organisations dedicated to conserving the landscape and countryside throughout England and Wales.

Tell us what you think

You have an important role to play in shaping our plans for the VIP project in the New Forest and we're keen to hear what you think.

 FREEPHONE:
0330 134 0051

 Send an email to:
visualimpact@nationalgrid.com

 Write to our freepost address at:
FREEPOST VISUAL IMPACT PROVISION

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill,
Warwick. CV34 6DA
United Kingdom

www.nationalgrid.com

Dear Resident,

Proposals to remove a section of National Grid's overhead transmission line in the New Forest National Park

I am writing to you to let you know that, this summer, National Grid will be holding two public events to provide an update on its plans to reduce the visual impact of an existing section of electricity transmission line near the village of Hale.

This is a major engineering project and we want to make sure that we take on board the views of the local community and wider stakeholders.

We have been working with local technical stakeholders including the New Forest National Park Authority, the National Trust, Natural England, the Verderers and the Forestry Commission to establish the best way to reduce the visual impact of the overhead line.

Since autumn 2015, when it was agreed that burying the cables underground was the best solution, we have worked with key stakeholders and landowners to identify any environmental, archaeological and land issues that will influence where an underground route can be built.

We are considering potential route corridor options that we feel achieve the goal of reducing the visual impact while minimising long-term impact on the natural and historic environment.

At both ends of any underground route corridor, there will be a Sealing End Compound which is needed where the section of underground cable continues on to an overhead line. Our aim is to carefully select these locations to reduce the visual impact of this electricity infrastructure and again, we are working with our group of technical stakeholders to identify the best locations. Over the page you can view a map of the existing transmission line and the search area for potential underground route corridors and the two Sealing End Compounds.

We would like to share more information with you and to hear your views on the potential options. You can find out about the progress of the project at two community drop-in events:

1 July 2016, 4.00pm – 8.00pm
Hale Village Hall, Hatchett Green, Hale,
Fordingbridge, SP6 2NE

2 July 2016, 10.00am – 4.00pm
Hale Village Hall, Hatchett Green, Hale,
Fordingbridge, SP6 2NE

The events are being held to show people how the plans are shaping up and to provide an opportunity for local stakeholders to share their views on the project. Members of National Grid's team will be on hand to answer questions and discuss the project in more detail.

We are keen to involve local people in the development of our plans for the project. If you would like to know more details about the project or events please get in touch with our community relations team by calling **FREEPHONE 0330 134 0051**, email **visualimpact@nationalgrid.com**, or post at **FREEPOST VISUAL IMPACT PROVISION**.

I hope you find this information useful and hope to see you at the forthcoming events.

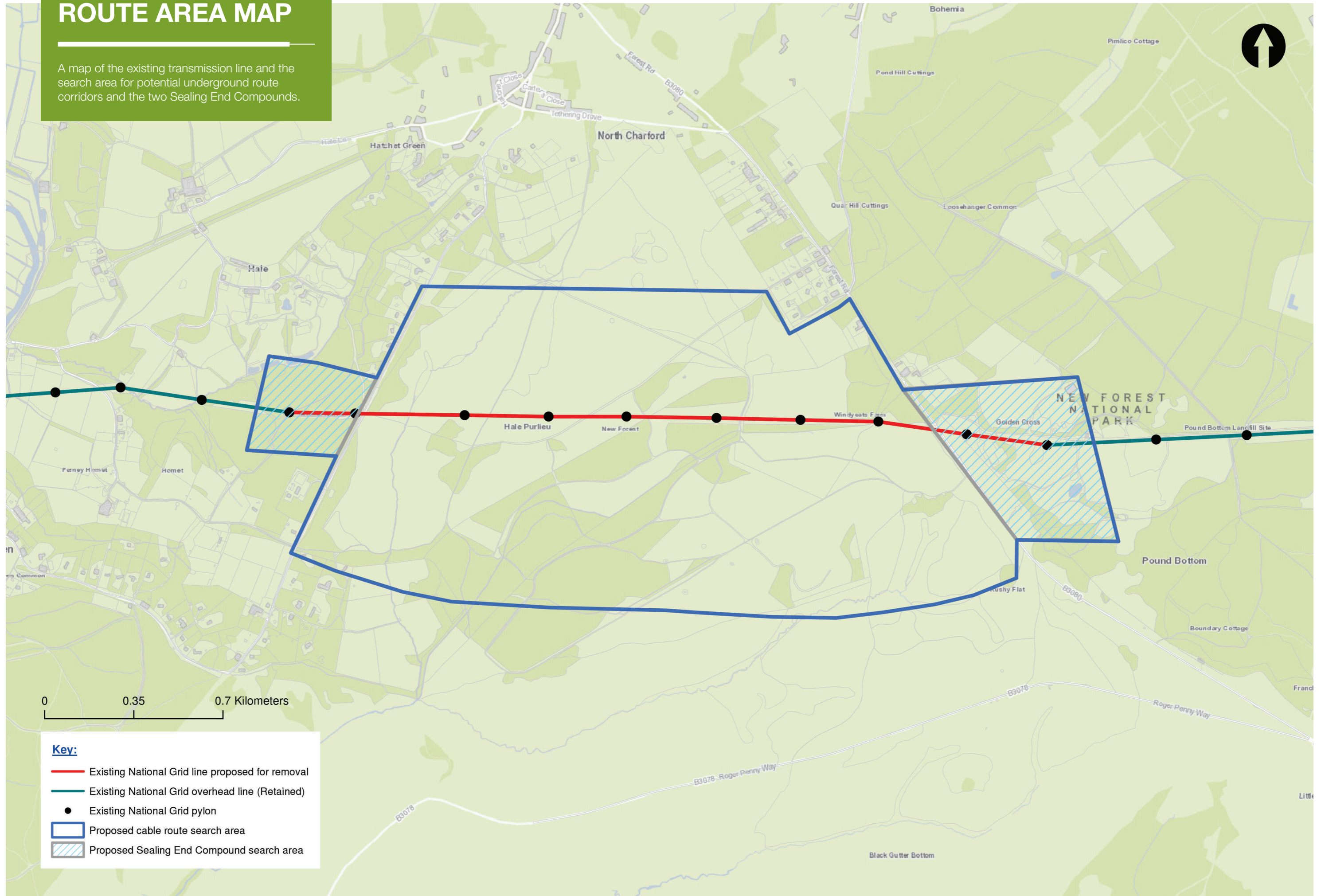
Yours sincerely



Hector Pearson
VIP project manager, National Grid

ROUTE AREA MAP

A map of the existing transmission line and the search area for potential underground route corridors and the two Sealing End Compounds.



Key:

- Existing National Grid line proposed for removal
- Existing National Grid overhead line (Retained)
- Existing National Grid pylon
- Proposed cable route search area
- Proposed Sealing End Compound search area