Visual Impact Provision
Landscape Enhancement Initiative

Webinar for The Wildlife Trusts

Wednesday 12th December 2018
Today’s speakers

- TBC
LEI approvals panel

• Mary O’Connor, Chair
• John Briggs, Natural Resources Wales
• Gary Charlton, Natural England
• Sarah Tunnicliffe, Historic England
• Dr Kate Roberts, Cadw

national grid

Historic England
LEI in context of the wider Visual Impact Provision
Background to VIP

- Under the RIIO T1* price controls, Ofgem has agreed a provision of £500 million for electricity transmission owners to mitigate the visual impact of existing electricity infrastructure in nationally protected landscapes in Great Britain.

- This provision can only be spent on existing lines through Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks.

- For National Grid, this equates to 571km of Overhead Line, around 7% of our network.

* Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs
Visual Impact Provision

Is National Grid’s approach to securing funding under the allowance.

It applies to:

AONBs & National Parks

Existing lines only
Our lines in AONBs

- Clwydian Range | 18.1 km
- Anglesey | 1 km
- Cannock Chase | 0.9 km
- Shropshire Hills | 2.6 km
- Cotswolds | 98 km
- Cornwall | 3.3 km
- Tamar Valley | 7.8 km
- Blackdown Hills | 14.8 km
- Dorset | 39.9 km
- Wye Valley | 4.1 km
- Dedham Vale | 2.9 km
- Forest of Bowland | 1.9 km
- Suffolk Coasts & Heaths | 4.2 km
- Solway Coast | 0.4 km
- High Weald | 32.9 km
- Kent Downs | 35.8 km
- Chilterns | 41.3 km
- North Wessex Downs | 79.1 km
- Cranbourne Chase & West Wiltshire | 2.4 km
The VIP Policy

- National Grid consulted the public on a draft policy for VIP in summer 2013. Incorporated comments. Approved by Ofgem in March 2014

- The Policy:
  - set up an independently chaired Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) to advise & take decisions
  - proposed substantial engagement with organisations and communities not on the SAG
  - and set out Guiding Principles for decision-making to prioritise proposals which:

  - Result in the greatest landscape enhancement
  - Result in the greatest opportunities to conserve and enhance natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
  - Result in the greatest opportunities to encourage public understanding and enjoyment of the protected landscapes
  - Are technically feasible in context of the wider transmission system
  - Are economical and efficient
  - Result in the greatest landscape sensitivity; impact of lines
  - ecology; historic environment; water; local air quality; noise and vibration; soils and geology
  - local socio-economic impact;
  - network performance; technical complexity; construction / project delivery issues etc.
  - Value-for-money; early asset write-off
The Stakeholder Advisory Group
Developing a shortlist

Eight AONBs & National Parks shortlisted for further investigation

Stakeholder reference groups, workshops & engagement in all areas to explore views and gather intelligence

November 2014

Landscape assessment produces a shortlist of 12 most intrusive transmission lines in eight protected areas.

Assessed National Park
Assessed Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Snowdonia National Park
Brecon Beacons National Park
Tamar Valley AONB
Peaks District National Park
North Wessex Downs AONB
New Forest National Park
High Weald AONB
Dorset AONB
Four prioritised schemes

Snowdonia
3km of overhead line to be removed across the Dwyryd Estuary.

Dorset
8km of overhead line to be removed near Winterbourne Abbas, close to the Hardy monument. Across predominately arable fields.

Peak East
2km of overhead line to be removed from around Dunford Bridge. Using an existing footpath for the cable route.

New Forest
3km of overhead line to be removed from across Hale Purlieu - a section of highly designated common land.
Landscape Enhancement Initiative

- Spreading the allowance more widely
- Stakeholder-driven – brainchild of Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Allowance for smaller, localised improvement projects
- Available to 30 AONBs and National Parks
- Launched in May 2016
Update on windows 1, 2, 3 and 4
Three projects secured final approval from Ofgem and are now underway:

- **High Weald AONB Partnership**: Beautiful Boundaries
- **Peak District National Park Authority**: Central Longdendale Trails
- **North York Moors National Park Authority**: Over Silton to Thimbleby Bridleway

Monitoring began on these live projects in March 2018
Window 2 applications

- Seven further projects approved by Ofgem:
  - **Clwydian Range & Dee Valley AONB Partnership**: *Lost Landscapes*
  - **Dorset AONB Partnership**: *Magical Marshwood Vale*
  - **New Forest National Park Authority**: *Woodland Improvements and Wild Play at Holbury Manor / Warren Copse*
  - **Peak District National Park Authority**: *Longdendale Landscape Restoration*
  - **Snowdonia National Park Authority**: *Snowdonia Traditional Boundaries; Dyffryn Maentworg Woodland Restoration and Landscape Improvement; and Dyffryn Ffestiniog (East) Woodland Restoration and Landscape Improvement*
Window 3 applications

• LEI approvals panel met in December 2017
• Four projects approved and submitted to Ofgem in April 2018:
  • Dorset AONB Partnership
  • Kent Downs AONB Partnership
  • New Forest National Park Authority
  • Peak District National Park Authority
• Decision expected by end of 2018
• Two projects postponed until Window 4:
  • Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
  • Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership
Window 4 applications

- LEI approvals panel met in June 2018
- Five projects approved and submitted to Ofgem in October 2018:
  - Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership: Enhancing the Hills
  - Clwydian Range AONB Partnership: Lost Landscapes Continued
  - New Forest National Park Authority: Landford Bog Nature Reserve
  - High Weald AONB Partnership: Beautiful Boundaries
  - High Weald AONB Partnership: Wonderful Woodlands
- Decision expected early 2019
Key learnings

- More integrated, holistic project submissions that encompassed wider landscape issues

- **LVIA Technical Report** proved helpful in planning projects
  - Provides summary landscape information that could help formulate project proposals that are integrated with their landscape context

- Make use of the full studies that have been supplied to each eligible NP and AONB for ideas and to inform project proposals

- Projects proposals aligned with the area’s management plan, statement of Special Qualities, and landscape character assessments / LANDMAP, etc
Recommendations for future applications

• The Initiative covers three years’ post-implementation maintenance
  • This should be included as a legitimate budget item
• Maps that show project locations more clearly in relation to the designated landscape boundaries
  • Label sub-section of OHLs in the area of the project
  • Indicate any distribution lines within the project areas
• Get in touch with expert advisors and / or specialist agencies, consult heritage records, etc.
• Look at previous proposals that were commended by the Panel
Window 5 programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Timeframe</th>
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<tr>
<td>Two applications received</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approvals Panel meets</td>
<td>December 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparation of Ofgem submission</td>
<td>Early 2019</td>
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<td>Licence consultation</td>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
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<td>Final Ofgem Approval</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
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<td>Notify applicants / issue grant agreements</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
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<td>Release of funds (once terms returned)</td>
<td>Autumn 2019</td>
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Ongoing programme

• Window 6 expressions of interest – 21st January 2019
• Window 7 expressions of interest – June 2019
• Window 8 expression of interest – January 2020
The application process
A bit about Benevity

Benevity, Inc., a B Corporation, is the global leader in online workplace giving, matching, volunteering and community investment and grants software. With software that is available in 17 languages, to more than four million users around the world, Benevity has processed over 2 billion dollars in donations and 10 million hours of volunteering time this year to almost 150,000 charities worldwide.

The Benevity LEI team comprises of specialist associates who provide consultancy, grant assessment and programme management across broad and niche fields of knowledge.

Our experts are managed by Benevity Directors and supported by our in-house Account Managers & Administrators
Benevity LEI team

Trudi Webber
LEI Project Director
*Benevity UK Business Development Director*

Barnaby Hopson
LEI Grant maker
The Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) is a grant scheme that forms an important part of National Grid’s Visual Impact Provision project.

LEI aims to grant up to £24 million over 6 years. (2015-2021) for localised visual improvement projects.

The objective of the scheme is to reduce the landscape and visual impact of National Grid’s existing electricity infrastructure and enhance the quality of the affected designated landscapes.
The plan for today

- The LEI Programme
  - Application process
  - Level of funding
  - Match funding
  - Partner organisations
  - Volunteering and Pro bono work
  - Budgets
In order to qualify for an LEI grant all AONBs and National Parks need to answer eligibility questions.
The LEI application process

Integrated grants programme in 5 easy steps

**EOI**
Simple, online application process starting with an Expression of Interest application form.

**Review**
Our team of project leads, expert grant-makers and Landscape Advisors review the EOIs. Choose your evaluation criteria and weighted scoring to efficiently rank proposals.

**Final**
Successful applicants are invited to submit a full application form. User-friendly form with a budget document to complete and the ability to upload supporting photos and information.

**Panel**
Applications are recommended to an independent Panel who review and make recommendations to Ofgem.

**Ofgem**
Ofgem carry out further reviews & make the final decision, leading to a consultation period with timelines extending to at least 4 months.
Level of funding

- Up to £200,000 per application
- Maximum 75% of total project costs
- Up to three live applications (or up to £600,000)
- Small projects can be bundled into a single application
25% match funding

Applicants must show where the 25% match will come from e.g.

• Financial contributions
• Volunteer time
• Pro-bono work
• Donation of land
• Donations of machinery
• Donation of other resources
• Fundraising
Partner organisations can add significant value to an application:

- Expertise
- Project planning
- Project management
- Matched resources (funding, staffing, volunteers, pro-bono etc)

Note: Ultimate accountability remains with applicant
Volunteer time
Budgets

Each budget line must show:

- Item
- Amount (per year and total)
- Formula
- Source (i.e. stewardship rates, previous work, quotes)
## Budget Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Activity</th>
<th>Description of Activity/Work</th>
<th>Rational</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
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Please note that the PM section may be completed in only one sub project worksheet if this covers the project as a whole. Please make this clear in the description box if this is the case.
Help and further information

- Website: lei.nationalgrid.com
- LEI helpline: 01285 841 912
- Email helpline: nationalgrid@thetrustpartnership.com
- LEI project director: Trudi Webber – twebber@Benevity.com
- LEI expert grant-maker: Barnaby Hopson - barnaby.hopson@thetrustpartnership.com
What makes a good scheme?
“We can provide advice on what might be a suitable LEI project, what the process is and what level of information is required to produce a viable LEI project.”
"LEI will help fund local visual improvement schemes that reduce the landscape and visual impacts of existing National Grid electricity transmission lines across English and Welsh Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks."
What makes a good scheme?

The focus of the project must be directly related to the LEI Primary Criteria.

i.e. to mitigate the visual or landscape effects of the National Grid infrastructure, within the AONB/National Park.

….everything else is a bonus!
Large scale landscape enhancements
Mitigates visual impacts from key views or visual receptors
In-keeping with the area’s Management Plan objectives and character of the landscape.
Other considerations
Biodiversity or historic enhancements
Improved public access and enjoyment
What makes a good application?

- Clearly address the primary criteria (and secondary if applicable).
  - provide evidence of how the project addresses the current landscape and visual impacts

- Be ambitious and comprehensive in your approach - consider the wider landscape and possible phased projects to achieve a strategic vision.

- Look for opportunities to combine smaller projects, such as tree and hedgerow planting with footpath improvement and restoring areas of degraded land cover, encourage partnerships between land owners and partnership organisations.
Illustrate how the site(s) relate to the electricity line and pylons
Provide clear descriptions of the proposals, addressing any issues which may arise.
Provide clear and concise maps and photographs

- Demonstrate existing views or current condition of the landscape features to be enhanced
Use landscape and visual language

Focus on landscape and visual mitigation rather than ecological enhancements

Field boundary with mature trees indicating the line of an old hedge. The restoration of this hedge will break up the impact of the transmission lines.

1) Approximately 260 of hedge planting.

2) Double fence.

3) Mature trees to be retained in the hedge line. Some coppice required.
Lessons learnt

• Emphasise how it will meet the **Primary Criteria** from a landscape perspective within comprehensive projects.

• Take advantage of **all** the resources available to you.

• Clarity of information:
  • Application forms, cost templates, etc.
  • Well annotated photos and plans to support text.
  • Project programme

• Clarity about what is funded by LEI and what is not

• Measurable and quantifiable work elements.

• Be ambitious!
Any questions?
Case study: High Weald AONB ‘Beautiful Boundaries’
Location
A Medieval landscape

- Sandstone ridges and deep gills
- Dispersed settlement of historic farmsteads
- Historic routeways
- Ancient woodlands
- Small, irregular fields and heaths
Considerations

✗ Narrow criteria, eligible works unclear
✗ No resources for development
✗ Early landowner sign-up required
✗ Specific to part of the AONB

✓ AONB Partnerships USP
✓ 26m=13 HLF LPS schemes
✓ Private sector
✓ Straight forward
✓ Good chance of success
✓ Ongoing
Project area - 3km buffer
Project theme - hedgerows

Key:
Historic field boundaries
Visual impact and public benefit assessed
Project plan
# Budget and outputs

## INCOME

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<th>Income source</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>National Grid</td>
<td>199860</td>
<td>75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landowners</td>
<td>55089</td>
<td>20.67</td>
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<td>High Weald Joint Advisory Committee</td>
<td>11531</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>266480</td>
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## EXPENDITURE

### Revenue

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<td>Project Officer travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance support for claims</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialist advice</td>
<td>2700</td>
<td>1.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events for landowners and community</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>0.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project publicity</td>
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<td>0.38</td>
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<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
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### Capital

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<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Coppice gap up and fence</td>
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<td>34.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>New hedge and fence</td>
<td>91035</td>
<td>34.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plant trees</td>
<td>2204</td>
<td>0.83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fence ancient woodland</td>
<td>34771</td>
<td>13.05</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total capital</strong></td>
<td>220355</td>
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**Total expenditure** 266480 100.00

- 5353 metres hedge restored
- 3642 metres of new hedge
- 232 trees planted
- 5448 metres ancient woodland protected
- 6 community events
Monitoring

BEFORE

Project type: new hedge and fence
Project number: 58
Hedgelink management scale: 0
Objectives: 1, 2, 3, 4

AFTER

Works signed off:
Project number: 58
Hedgelink management scale:
Outcomes achieved:
Where is the High Weald now?

- Grant offer received
- National Grid Stage 1 payment made
- Site-specific grant offers sent
- Project started in September 2017
- EoI for 2 more projects submitted
- First annual report to be submitted
Success
Scheme 1 & proposed 2 & 3

- Beautiful boundaries 1 – 10 landowners engaged, 11 sites
- Beautiful boundaries 2 – 11 landowners, 11 sites
- Wonderful woodlands – 3 landowners, 3 sites
Protected landscape engagement?

• What are the barriers?
• Do we need to do anything collectively?
• If so, who, how and what?
Further information

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www.highweald.org
01424 723014
Summary and closing remarks