Electricity transmission and the countryside - the national picture

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The Government is currently deciding on how electricity lines will connect to new energy infrastructure. CPRE wants to make sure that England’s rural landscapes don’t lose out.

Alternatives to new overhead lines, including underground and under-sea cables, along with better use of existing lines, mean fewer overhead lines need to be built. Please visit www.cpre.org.uk to join our campaign against unnecessary new power lines.
Why electricity transmission is a national issue

• £5 billion+ worth of investment proposed

• Industry legal responsibilities towards environment

• 1200+ public responses to draft NPS
Do we need new lines?

• Large proportion of demand comes from offshore

• National Grid: offshore network = 75% fewer new overhead lines

• More juice on existing lines?
Pylons and landscape

• A top 10 intrusion source

• Holford Rules; all landscapes matter

• Public inquiries: landscape experts’ role
Undergrounding

• Await IET report

• Have costs been exaggerated?

• Not just transmission - also lower voltage distribution issues
The role of Ofgem

• Allowance from a wider £360 million pot over next 8 years

• Guidance on visual amenity issues

• National Grid to consider public willingness to pay for undergrounding
Role of National Grid

• Proposes undergrounding 10% of all new lines

• Draft new policy: no presumption against undergrounding

• Open to using existing lines more efficiently?
Conclusion

• National planning policy is perhaps the most important single influence
• Clear shift towards better consideration of landscape
• Engage at every stage!