

Visual Amenity

WPD operates 91,000km of overhead lines predominantly in rural locations. Whilst overhead lines are widely accepted as being part of the countryside there are a number of National Parks and AONBs across the WPD geographical footprint where the removal of WPD overhead lines would improve the visual amenity. The main method of improving visual amenity whilst maintaining supplies is to replace the overhead lines with underground cables.

- As part of the Ofgem-approved voluntary initiative, following stakeholder engagement and feedback, WPD's approved business plan for the regulatory period 2015-2023 (known as RIIO-ED1) includes a total sum of £7.6m for undergrounding of overhead lines in National Parks (NPs) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).
- The £7.6m is the total for WPD's four licence areas for 8 years and is split according to Ofgem's allowance caps for each electricity network licence area across England and Wales as follows:

£2.3M

West Midlands

£0.9M

East Midlands

£3.0M

South West

£1.4M

South Wales

Work undertaken by licence area is as follows:

| Undergrounding in National Parks and AONBs (km) | | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| | West Midlands | East Midlands | South Wales | South West | WPD Total |
| Target for RIIO-ED1 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 21 | 55 |
| 2015/16 performance | 3.29 | 0.0 | 1.17 | 0.31 | 4.77 |

Following stakeholder engagement WPD have committed to undergrounding 55km of overhead line during RIIO-ED1. Positive progress has been made to fulfil the target performance for WPD as a whole.

